DRACULA'S BRUNCH CLUB

BRIAN GONSAR
KEENAN GAYBBA

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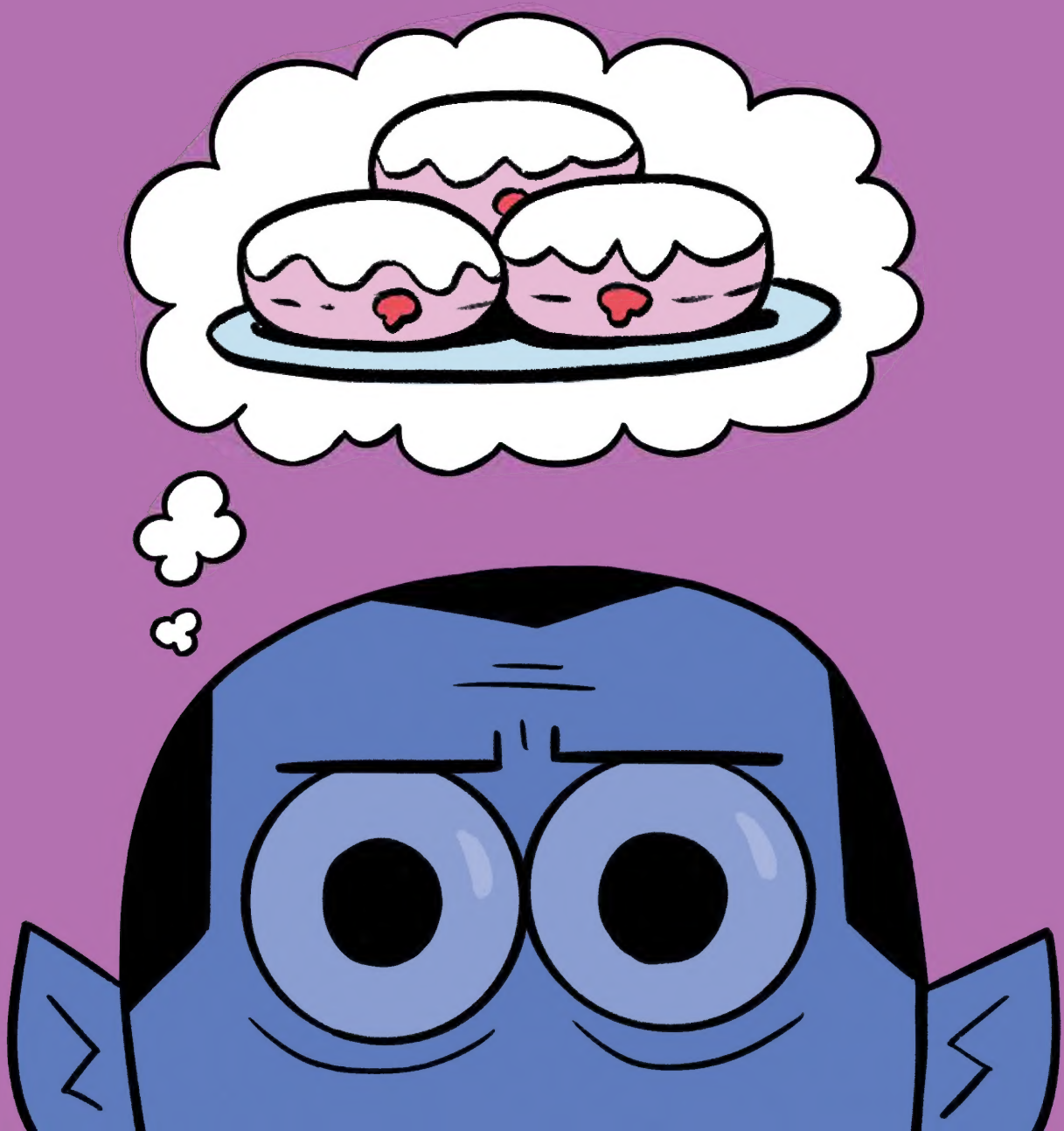
AN ONI PRESS PUBLICATION



DRACULA'S
BRUNCH CLUB
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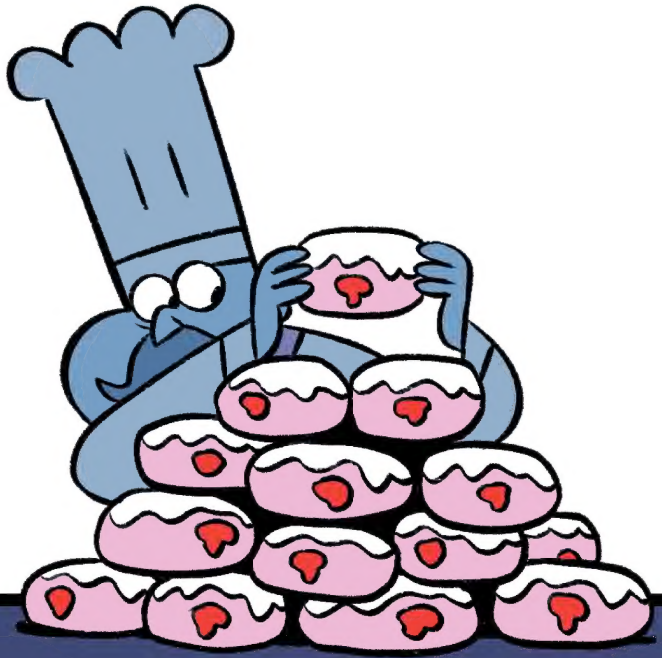
FOREWORD

When my dad was a boy, he collected tons of comics. Then one fateful day his mother "accidentally" sold his collection, not knowing what they were. Once he had kids of his own, he made sure to show my brothers and I what comics were and educate us on what the true value of a comic was. All of this got me interested in them, too. Reading comics took me into another world. It was an escape from the cramped house we lived in, filled with a bunch of energetic brothers and not a lot of resources.

When Brian showed me samples of *Dracula's Brunch Club*, it brought me back to my childhood. The characters are funny, the plot is clever, and Keenan's art has that nostalgic '90s-cartoon feeling. As someone who gets his creativity out through music, I loved seeing what others can produce with their creative sides. And having kids of my own—one who is currently in middle school—it's amazing to see them come home from a bookstore or library with a graphic novel or comic in hand—the same choices I was making when I was that age.

For someone who grew up on comics, I hope you'll enjoy this book as much as I did.

—**KEVIN JONAS,**
JONAS BROTHERS



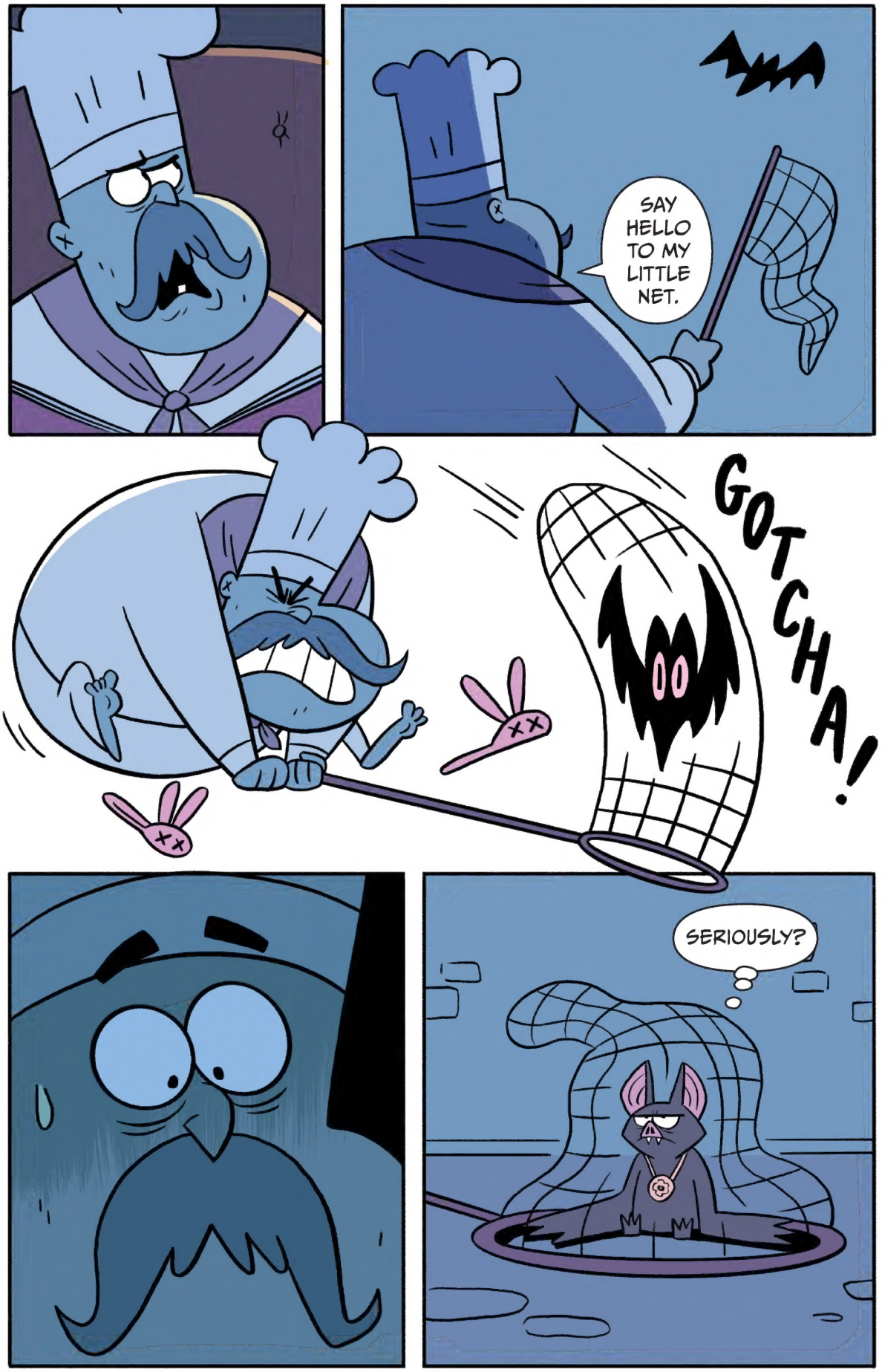
This book is for my Beach Vacation Graphic Novel Reading Club: Siena, Alena, and Valentina. And to Dina, my donut-hunting partner in crime.

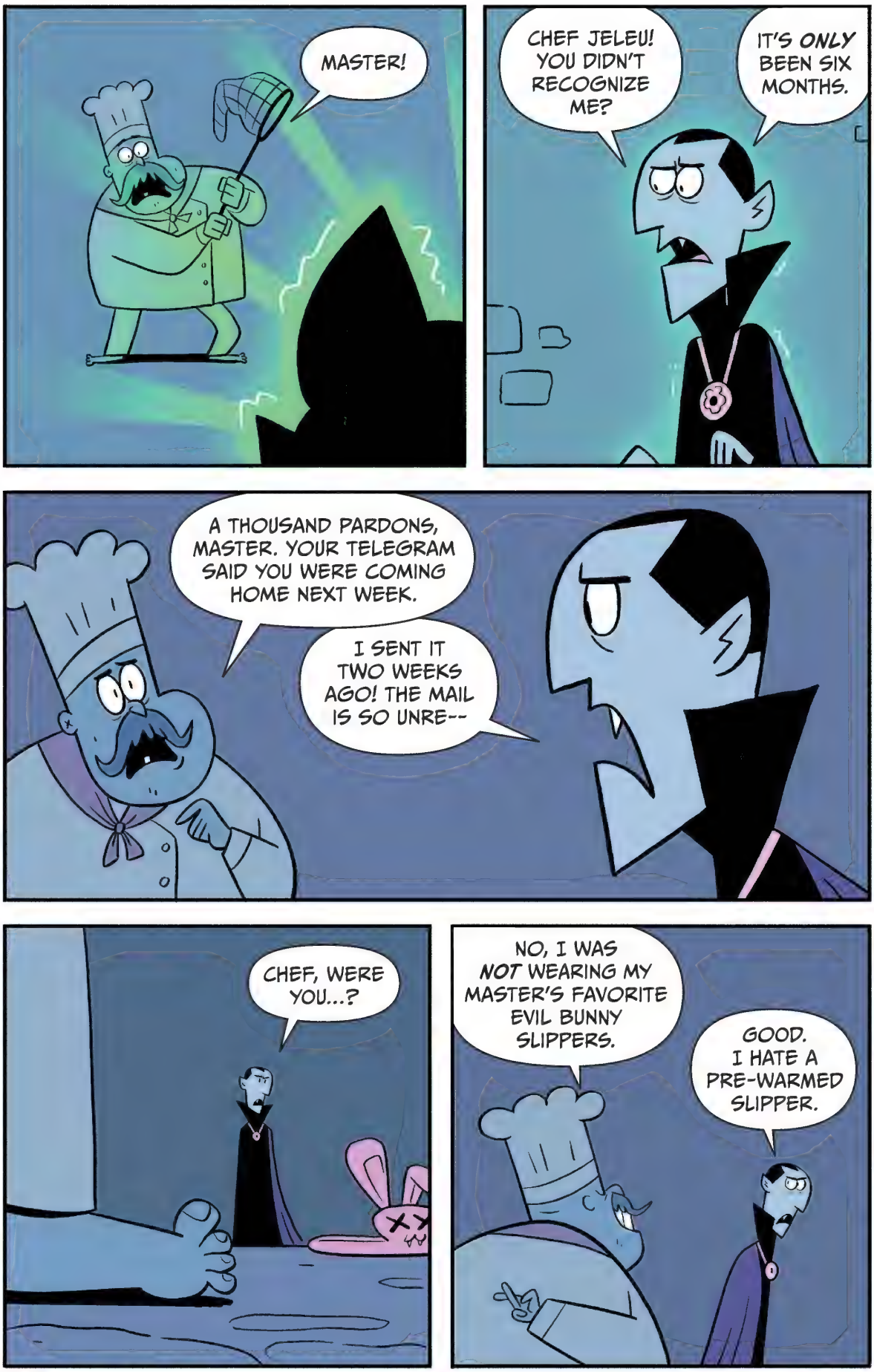
—BRIAN GONSAR

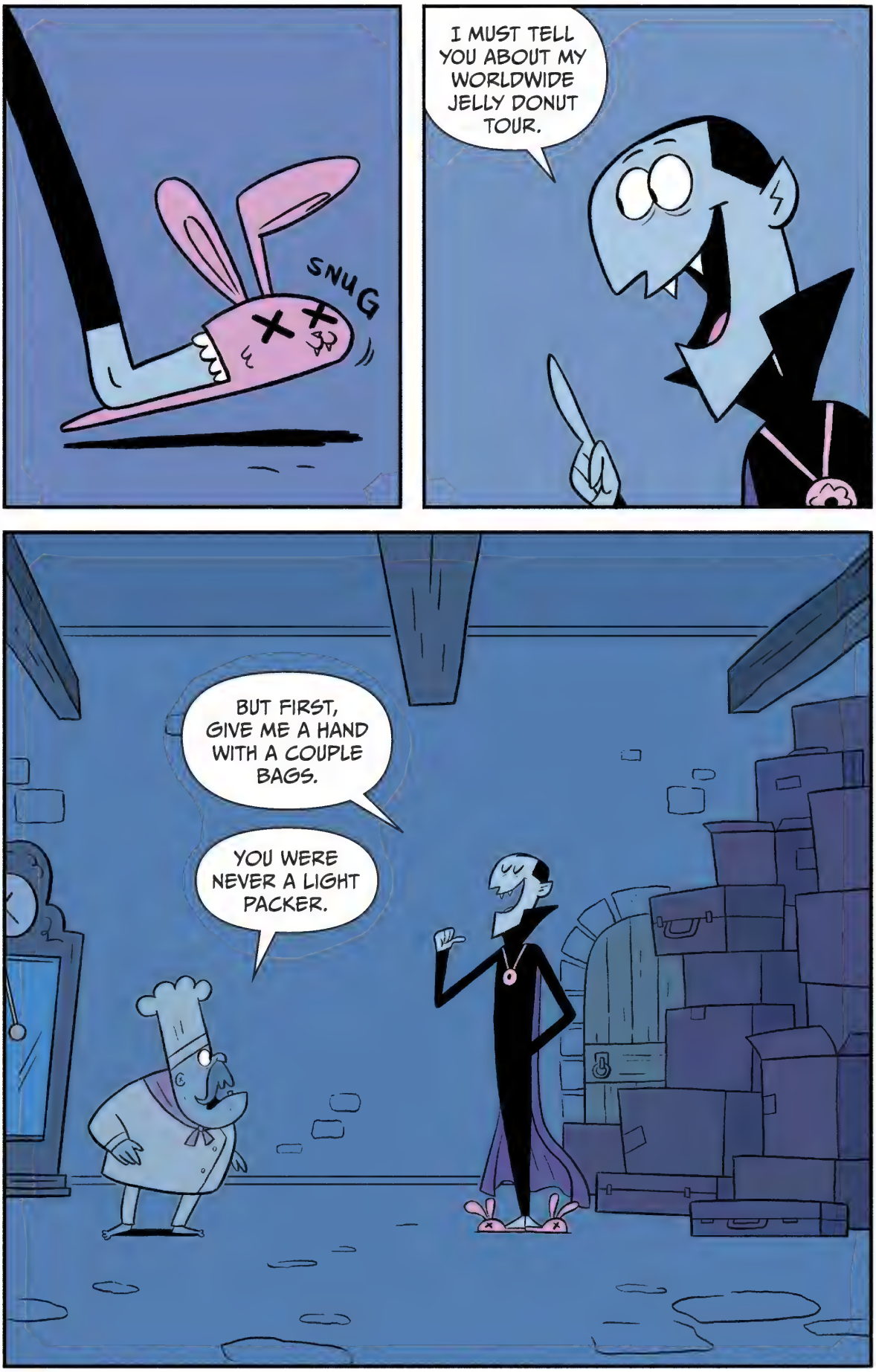
For Amy, Artemis, and Louise

—KEENAN GAYBBA

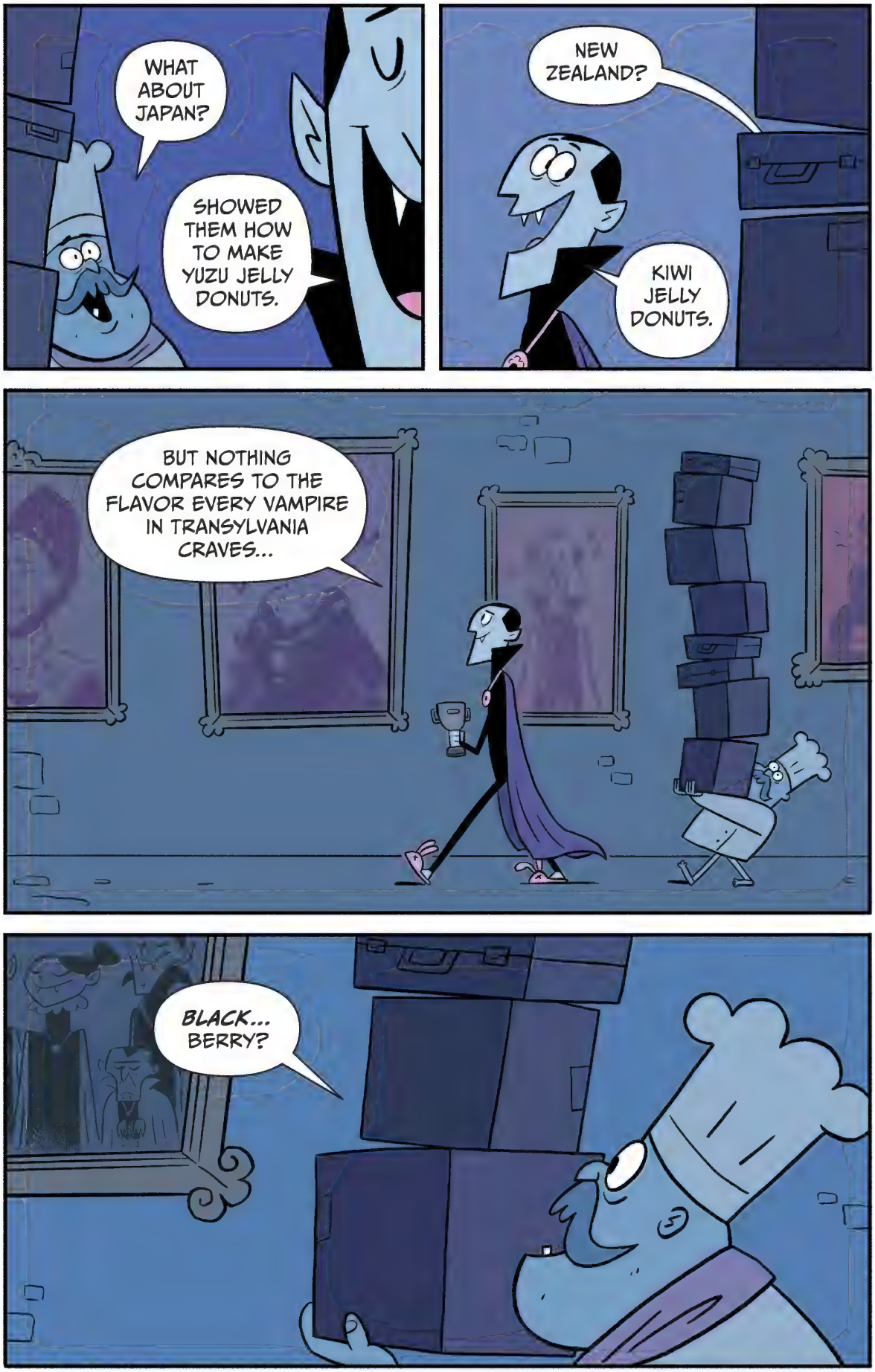
Transylvania, 6:49 P.M.
Count Dracula's Castle
BITES AND EARS

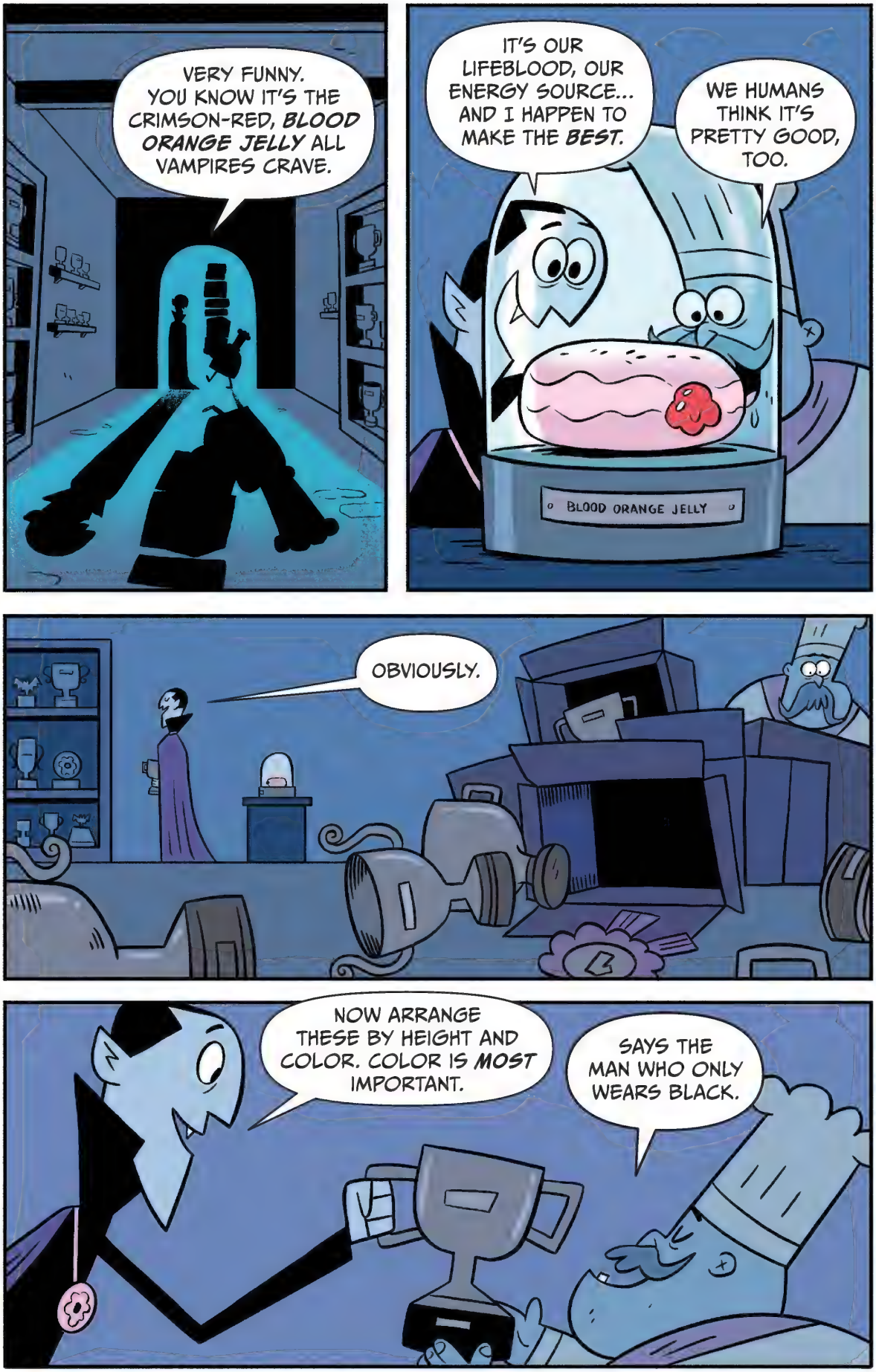

SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE NET.
GOTCHA!
SERIOUSLY?

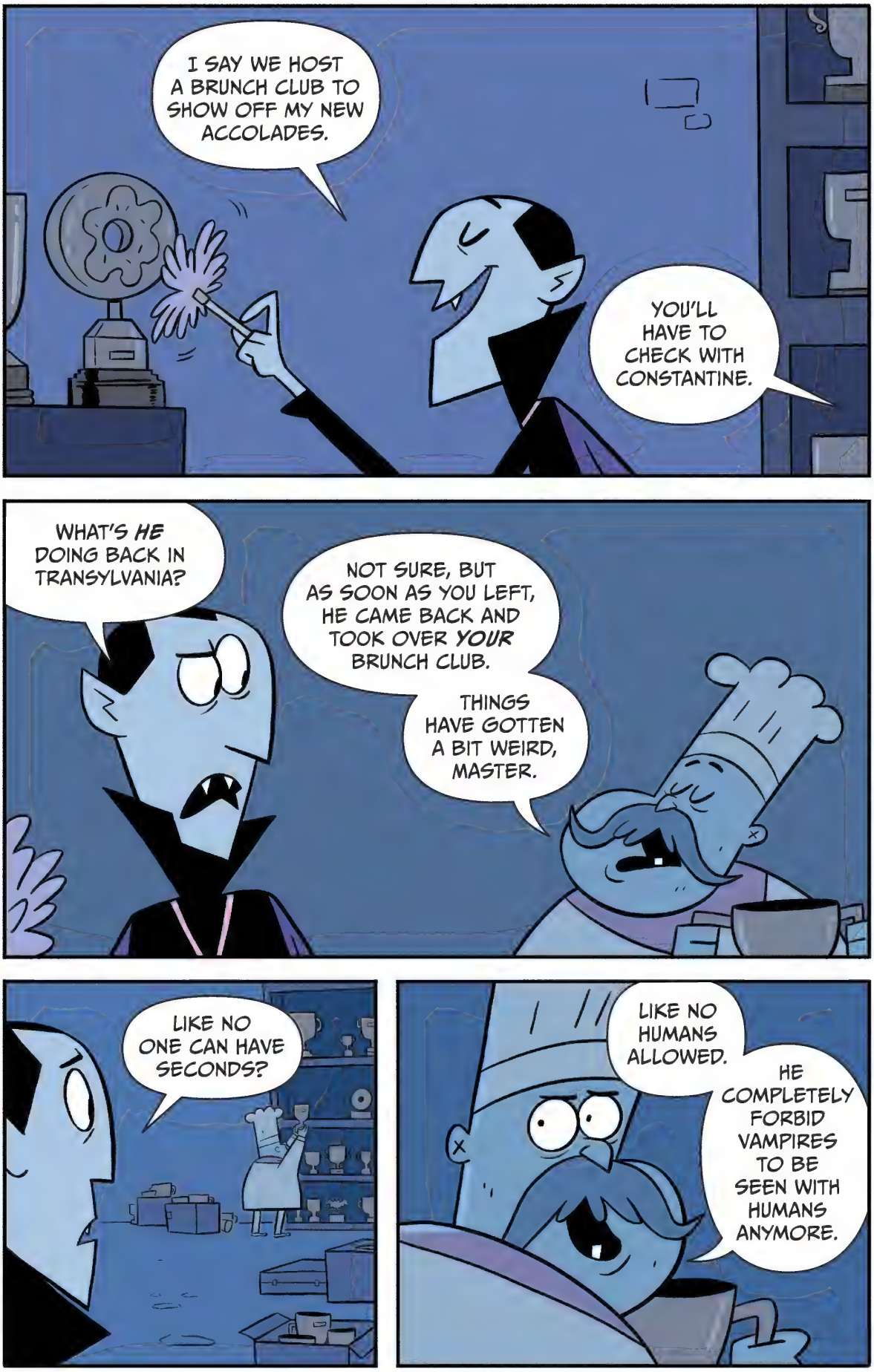

MASTER!
CHEF JELEU! YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME?
IT'S *ONLY* BEEN SIX MONTHS.
A THOUSAND PARDONS, MASTER. YOUR TELEGRAM SAID YOU WERE COMING HOME NEXT WEEK.
I SENT IT TWO WEEKS AGO! THE MAIL IS SO UNRE--
CHEF, WERE YOU...?
NO, I WAS *NOT* WEARING MY MASTER'S FAVORITE EVIL BUNNY SLIPPERS.
GOOD. I HATE A PRE-WARMED SLIPPER.

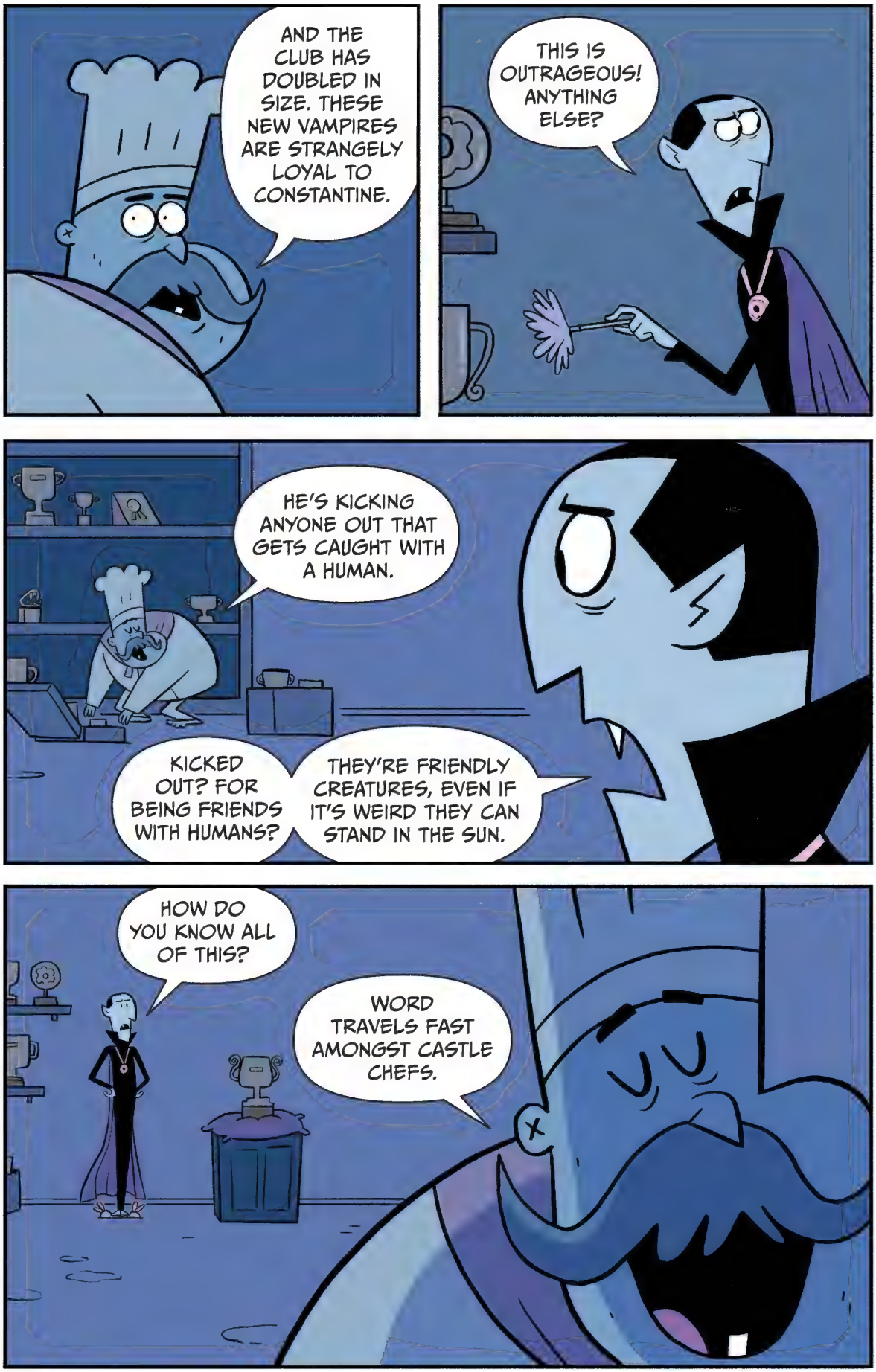

SNUG
I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT MY WORLDWIDE JELLY DONUT TOUR.
BUT FIRST, GIVE ME A HAND WITH A COUPLE BAGS.
YOU WERE NEVER A LIGHT PACKER.

CHEF, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO PARIS?
I BARELY LEAVE THIS CASTLE, MASTER.
YOU'D LOVE IT THERE. THEY TAUGHT ME ABOUT CROISSANTS; I TAUGHT THEM ABOUT STRAWBERRY JELLY DONUTS.


WHAT ABOUT JAPAN?
SHOWED THEM HOW TO MAKE YUZU JELLY DONUTS.
NEW ZEALAND?
KIWI JELLY DONUTS.
BUT NOTHING COMPARES TO THE FLAVOR EVERY VAMPIRE IN TRANSYLVANIA CRAVES...
BLACK... BERRY?


VERY FUNNY. YOU KNOW IT'S THE CRIMSON-RED, BLOOD ORANGE JELLY ALL VAMPIRES CRAVE.
IT'S OUR LIFEBLOOD, OUR ENERGY SOURCE... AND I HAPPEN TO MAKE THE BEST.
WE HUMANS THINK IT'S PRETTY GOOD, TOO.
BLOOD ORANGE JELLY
OBVIOUSLY.
NOW ARRANGE THESE BY HEIGHT AND COLOR. COLOR IS MOST IMPORTANT.
SAYS THE MAN WHO ONLY WEARS BLACK.


I SAY WE HOST A BRUNCH CLUB TO SHOW OFF MY NEW ACCOLADES.
YOU'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH CONSTANTINE.
WHAT'S *HE* DOING BACK IN TRANSYLVANIA?
NOT SURE, BUT AS SOON AS YOU LEFT, HE CAME BACK AND TOOK OVER *YOUR* BRUNCH CLUB.
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A BIT WEIRD, MASTER.
LIKE NO ONE CAN HAVE SECONDS?
LIKE NO HUMANS ALLOWED.
HE COMPLETELY FORBID VAMPIRES TO BE SEEN WITH HUMANS ANYMORE.


AND THE CLUB HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE. THESE NEW VAMPIRES ARE STRANGELY LOYAL TO CONSTANTINE.
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! ANYTHING ELSE?
HE'S KICKING ANYONE OUT THAT GETS CAUGHT WITH A HUMAN.
KICKED OUT? FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH HUMANS?
THEY'RE FRIENDLY CREATURES, EVEN IF IT'S WEIRD THEY CAN STAND IN THE SUN.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS?
WORD TRAVELS FAST AMONGST CASTLE CHEFS.

TELL THOSE CHEFS THAT ONE TASTE OF MY JELLIES WILL HAVE EVERY VAMPIRE BEGGING ME TO BE BACK IN CHARGE.
TRANSYLVANIAN CHEF OF THE YEAR
THEY'RE THE REASON I'M THE TALK OF TRANSYLVANIA!
MY MOM'S A HUGE FAN, MASTER.
YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE BEEN A HUGE FAN, TOO.

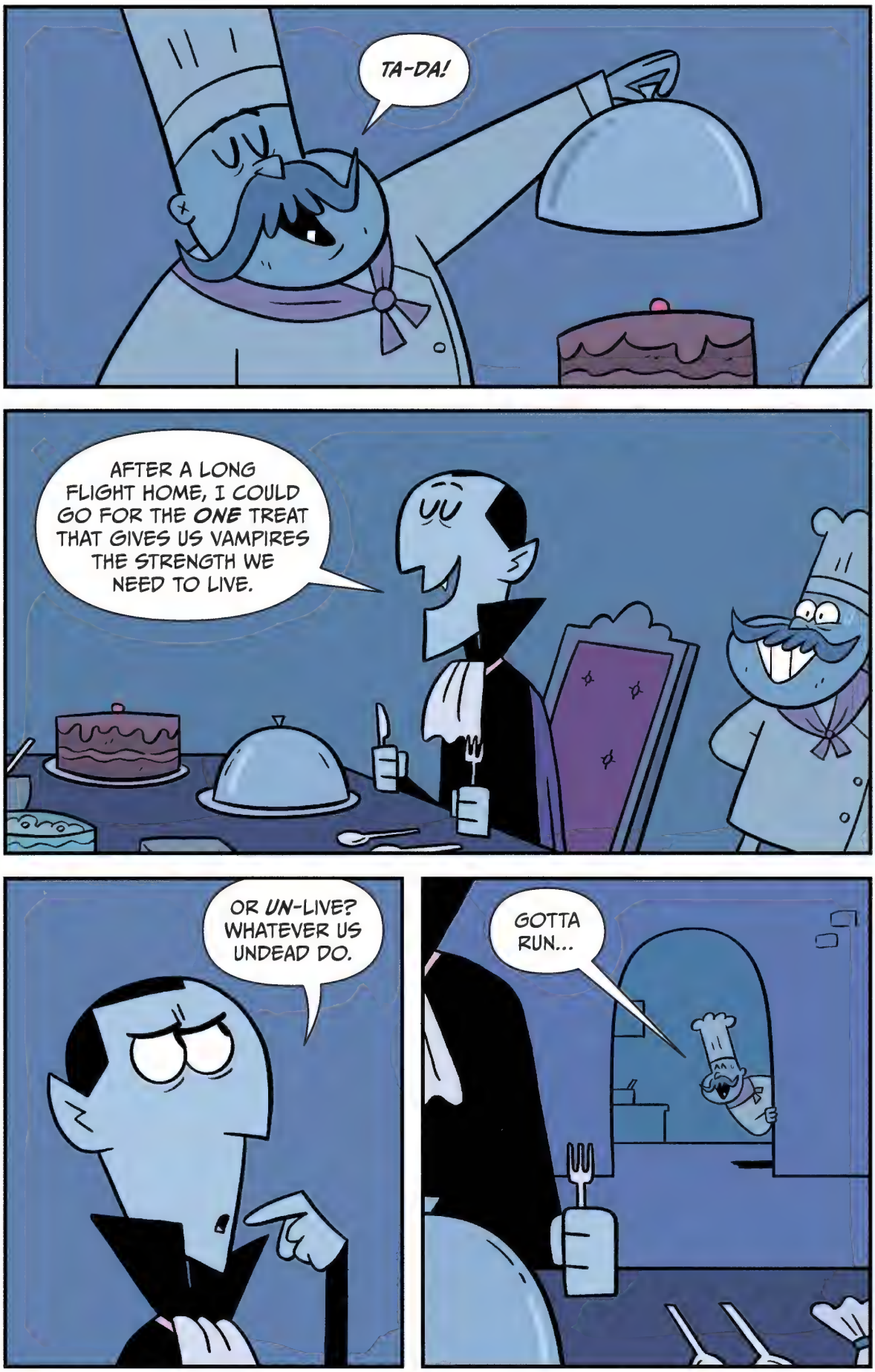
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MAYBE 240 YEARS OLD, HE TOLD ME TO GO FOR MY DREAMS.
IT'S BEEN PASTRIES AND BRUNCH EVER SINCE.
YOUR FATHER WAS GREAT AT BRINGING VAMPIRES AND HUMANS TOGETHER.
AND I'LL BRING THEM BACK TOGETHER WITH MY DONUTS.
NOW GET ME MY CROW.
PHWEE
PHWEE

TAKE THIS DOWN, CHEF.

GROWING UP, WE USED SEAGULLS. BUT THEY USUALLY ATE THE MESSAGES.

Dear Brunch Club,
Your glorious and world-renowned brunch leader has returned. Tomorrow, I will host a Brunch Club meeting to celebrate my jelly donut world-domination. See you promptly at midnight. Bring your appetite.
Sincerely,
Count Dracula

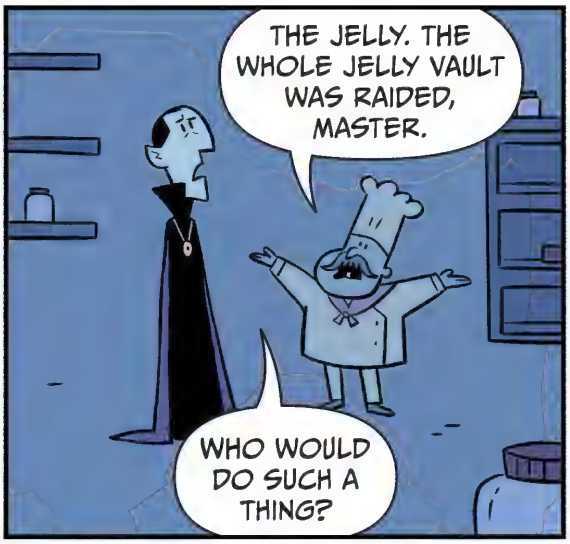
NOW, HOW ABOUT SOME BREAKFAST, MASTER? IT'S ALREADY 7:00 P.M.
OH GOODIE, MY FAVORITE MEAL.
YOU ALWAYS PREPARE THE FRESHEST FRUITS, THE FLUFFIEST EGGS...
HIGHEST PRAISE, MASTER.
...AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THE TRANSYLVANIAN TART...
TRAN-SYLVANIAN TOAST.
CHEF, HOW CAN I RULE THIS CASTLE WITH AN IRON HAND...
...WITH YOU CORRECTING ME?
IRON *FIST*. AND MY MISTAKE, MASTER.

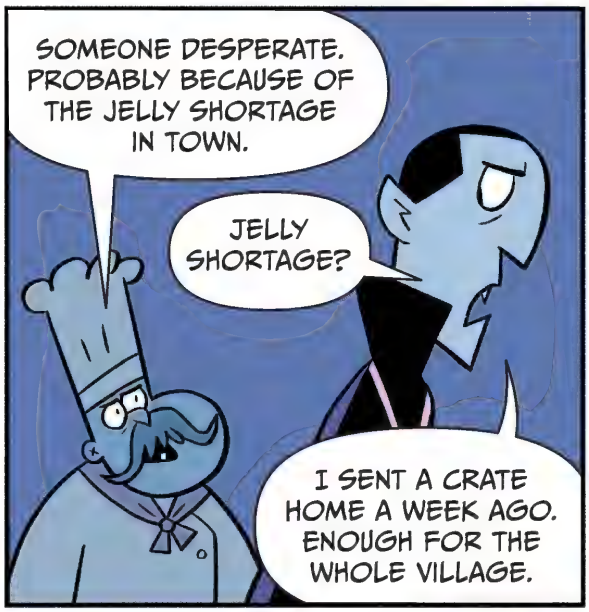

TA-DA!
AFTER A LONG FLIGHT HOME, I COULD GO FOR THE ONE TREAT THAT GIVES US VAMPIRES THE STRENGTH WE NEED TO LIVE.
OR UN-LIVE? WHATEVER US UNDEAD DO.
GOTTA RUN...

CHEF JELEU!!!
YOU RANG, MASTER?
WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM.
I FORGOT, MASTER, NO SALTSHAKERS NEAR YOUR TABLE.
WHERE IS MY JELLY DONUT?!

YOU KNOW I'M WEAK AND MOODY WITHOUT--
JELLY DONUTS.
"FOR MY BIRTHDAY, DO I DEMAND A CAKE? OR A TOWER OF--"
"JELLY DONUTS."
"WHEN I GET A COLD, IT'S NOT COUGH MEDICINE, BUT THE SOOTHING QUALITIES OF A FAT, GOOEY..."
"JELLY DONUT."
SO WHY DO I NOT HAVE ONE IN FRONT OF ME?

IT WAS STOLEN.
MY DONUT?


THE JELLY. THE WHOLE JELLY VAULT WAS RAIDED, MASTER.
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?


SOMEONE DESPERATE. PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE JELLY SHORTAGE IN TOWN.
JELLY SHORTAGE?
I SENT A CRATE HOME A WEEK AGO. ENOUGH FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE.

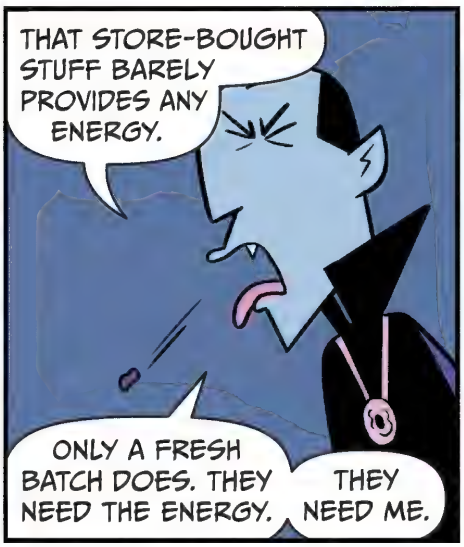
MAILMAN RAN OFF WITH THEM.
HASN'T COME BACK TO HIS POST SINCE.

YOUR TELEGRAM SAID YOU WERE BRINGING ANOTHER CASE HOME. MAY I HAVE IT?
IT'S... UMM...

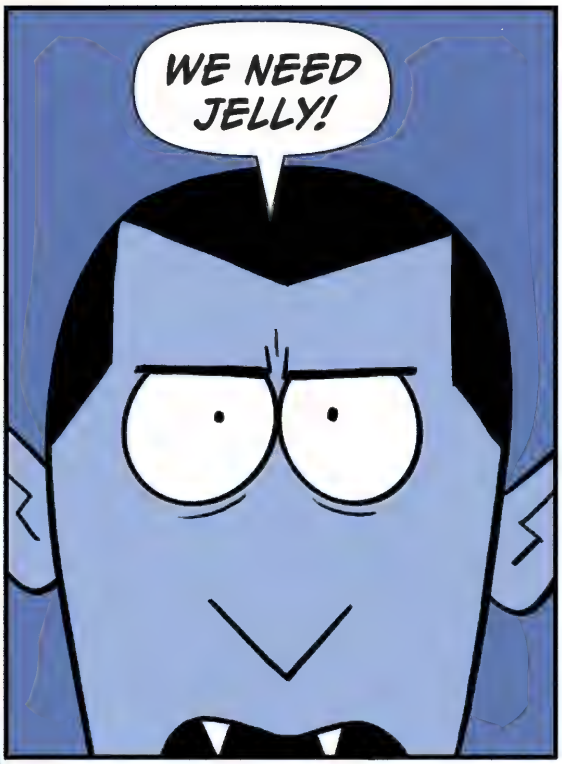
JUST BECAUSE I'M DEAD DOESN'T MEAN MY SKIN NEEDS TO BE.

WE'LL RUN TO THE MARKET AND GRAB SOME *BLOOD* ORANGES.
THEY'RE STILL OPEN LATE FOR VAMPIRE HOURS.
BLOOD ORANGE
erries
CURRANTS
ISINS

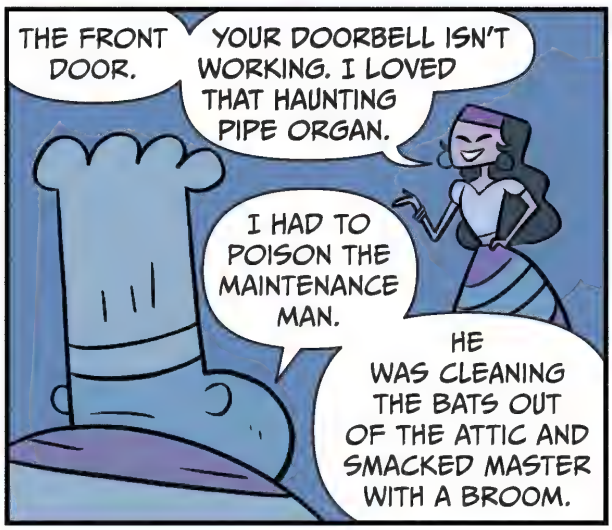
IT TAKES A WHILE TO MAKE IT FROM SCRATCH.
YOU DIDN'T THINK OF MENTIONING THIS *BEFORE* I SENT OUT THAT BRUNCH CLUB INVITE?
I'M NEVER ONE TO KILL THE VIBE, MASTER.


THAT STORE-BOUGHT STUFF BARELY PROVIDES ANY ENERGY.
ONLY A FRESH BATCH DOES. THEY NEED THE ENERGY.
THEY NEED ME.

THE STAKES ARE HIGH, MASTER.
CHEF! YOU KNOW THAT IS A FORBIDDEN WORD.
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS A *WOODEN* STAKE.


WE NEED JELLY!

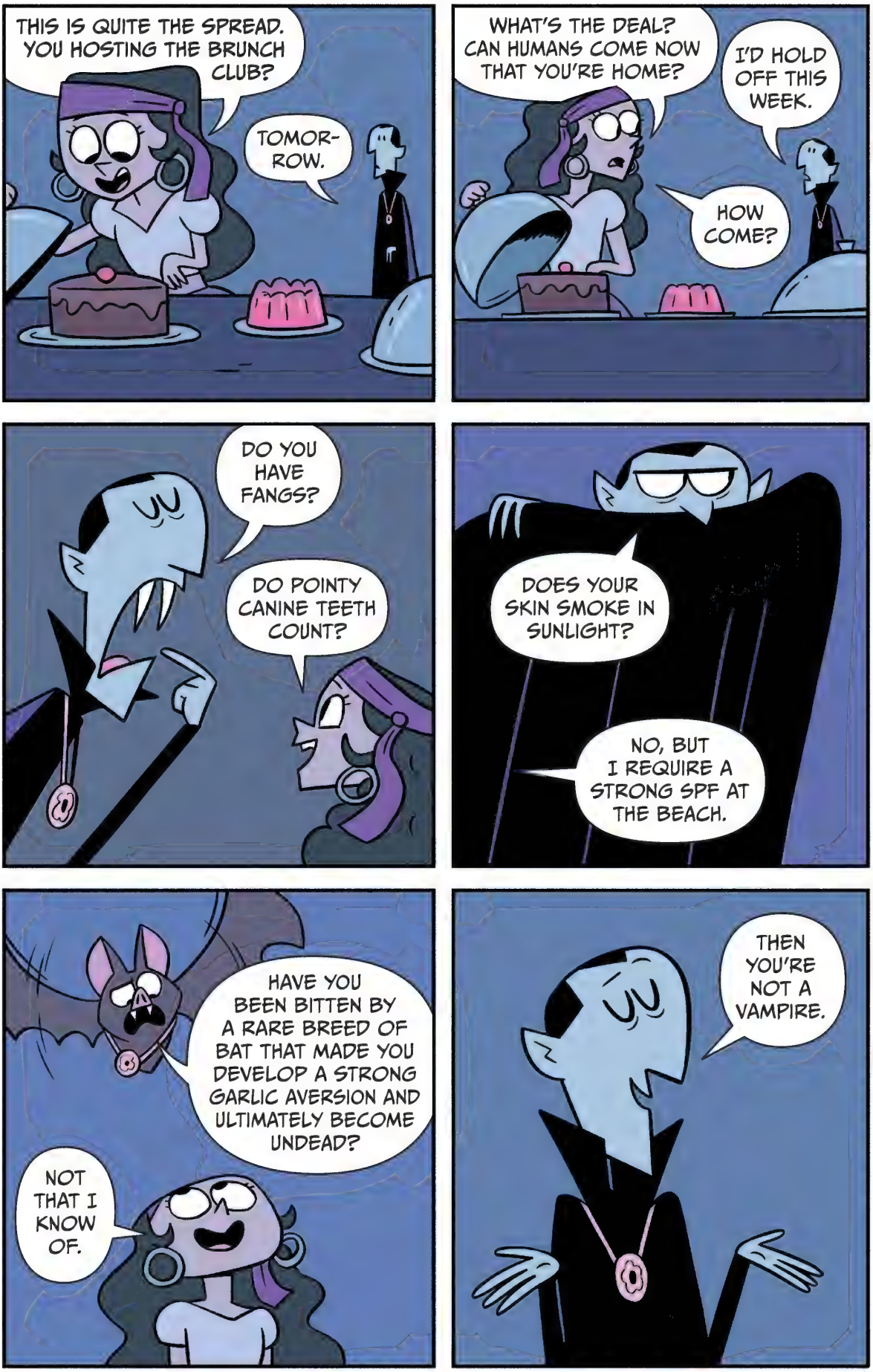
YOU AND ME BOTH, COUNTIE.
ELENA! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?


THE FRONT DOOR.
YOUR DOORBELL ISN'T WORKING. I LOVED THAT HAUNTING PIPE ORGAN.
I HAD TO POISON THE MAINTENANCE MAN.
HE WAS CLEANING THE BATS OUT OF THE ATTIC AND SMACKED MASTER WITH A BROOM.

OUCH.
NOW FLY OVER AND GIVE ME A WELCOME-BACK HUG.

NOW, WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH?

I'M HERE TO PICK UP THE DECORATIONS FOR MY CHARITY EVENT.
OH YES, THAT.
HOPE YOU LIKE BLACK.
EVER SINCE YOU MENTIONED YOU'D DONATE A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF JELLY DONUTS TO MY CHARITY AUCTION IN YOUR VQ ARTICLE...
...TICKET SALES HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE ROOF.
COUNTIE, SO MANY SICK CHILDREN WILL BE HELPED BECAUSE OF YOU.
WE CAN HONOR THAT PROMISE, RIGHT, CHEF?
MHMM.

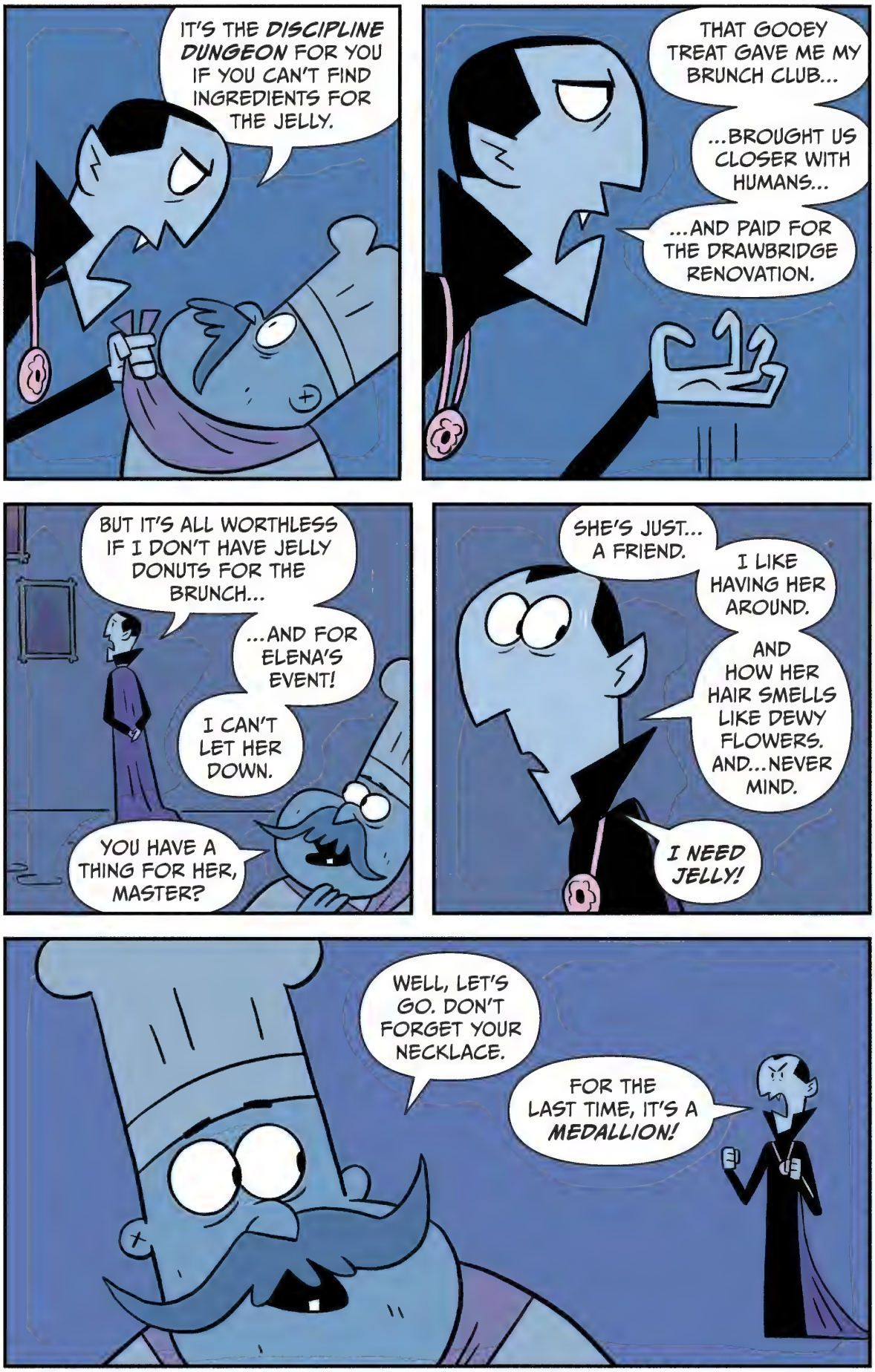

THIS IS QUITE THE SPREAD. YOU HOSTING THE BRUNCH CLUB?
TOMOR-ROW.
WHAT'S THE DEAL? CAN HUMANS COME NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME?
I'D HOLD OFF THIS WEEK.
HOW COME?
DO YOU HAVE FANGS?
DO POINTY CANINE TEETH COUNT?
DOES YOUR SKIN SMOKE IN SUNLIGHT?
NO, BUT I REQUIRE A STRONG SPF AT THE BEACH.
HAVE YOU BEEN BITTEN BY A RARE BREED OF BAT THAT MADE YOU DEVELOP A STRONG GARLIC AVERSION AND ULTIMATELY BECOME UNDEAD?
NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
THEN YOU'RE NOT A VAMPIRE.

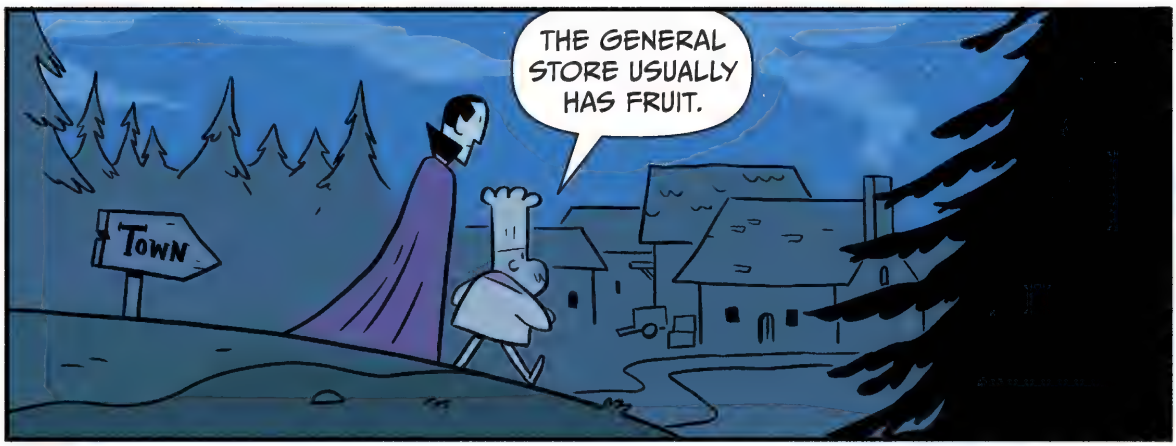
WELL THEN, EITHER FIGURE OUT HOW TO TURN ME INTO ONE OR TELL THAT NEW VAMPIRE TO STOP CAUSING DRAMA.

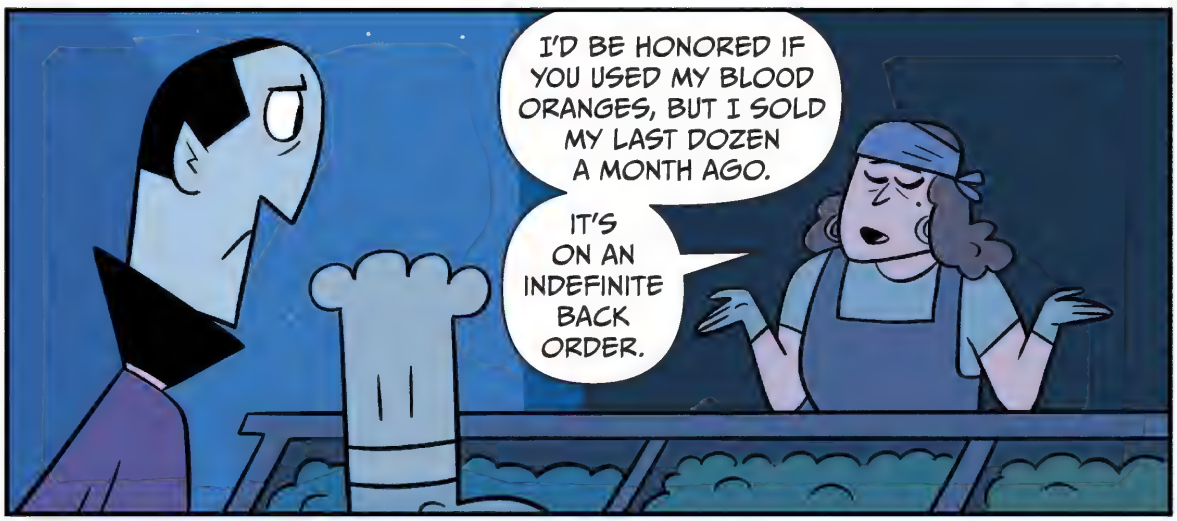
CONSTANTINE IS NOT ONE TO TAKE LIGHTLY.
NEITHER IS A GIRL WITH DONUT CRAVINGS.

MASTER, WE REALLY OUGHT TO GO DO THAT *THING*...

OH YES, I'LL LET YOU TWO BE.
THANKS FOR THE DECORATIONS, BOYS.


IT'S THE DISCIPLINE DUNGEON FOR YOU IF YOU CAN'T FIND INGREDIENTS FOR THE JELLY.
THAT GOOEY TREAT GAVE ME MY BRUNCH CLUB...
...BROUGHT US CLOSER WITH HUMANS...
...AND PAID FOR THE DRAWBRIDGE RENOVATION.
BUT IT'S ALL WORTHLESS IF I DON'T HAVE JELLY DONUTS FOR THE BRUNCH...
...AND FOR ELENA'S EVENT!
I CAN'T LET HER DOWN.
YOU HAVE A THING FOR HER, MASTER?
SHE'S JUST... A FRIEND.
I LIKE HAVING HER AROUND.
AND HOW HER HAIR SMELLS LIKE DEWY FLOWERS. AND...NEVER MIND.
I NEED JELLY!
WELL, LET'S GO. DON'T FORGET YOUR NECKLACE.
FOR THE LAST TIME, IT'S A MEDALLION!


THE GENERAL STORE USUALLY HAS FRUIT.
TOWN


I'D BE HONORED IF YOU USED MY BLOOD ORANGES, BUT I SOLD MY LAST DOZEN A MONTH AGO.
IT'S ON AN INDEFINITE BACK ORDER.

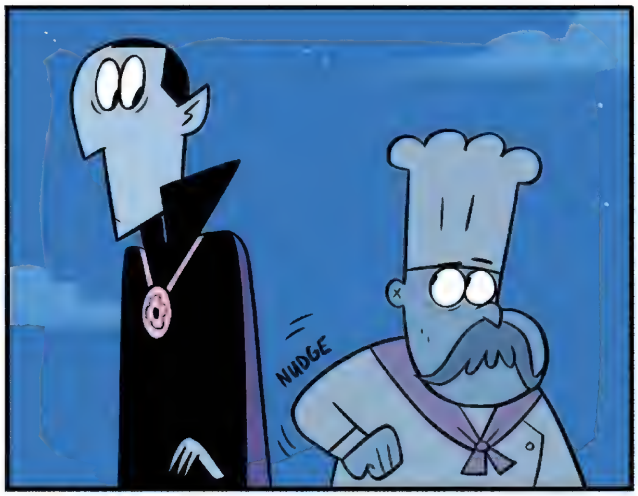
RENFIELDS
STAND
NONE OF MY FRUIT GREW THIS YEAR. THEY DRIED UP LIKE RAISINS.
WANT TO BUY RAISINS? HALF PRICE!
UGH.

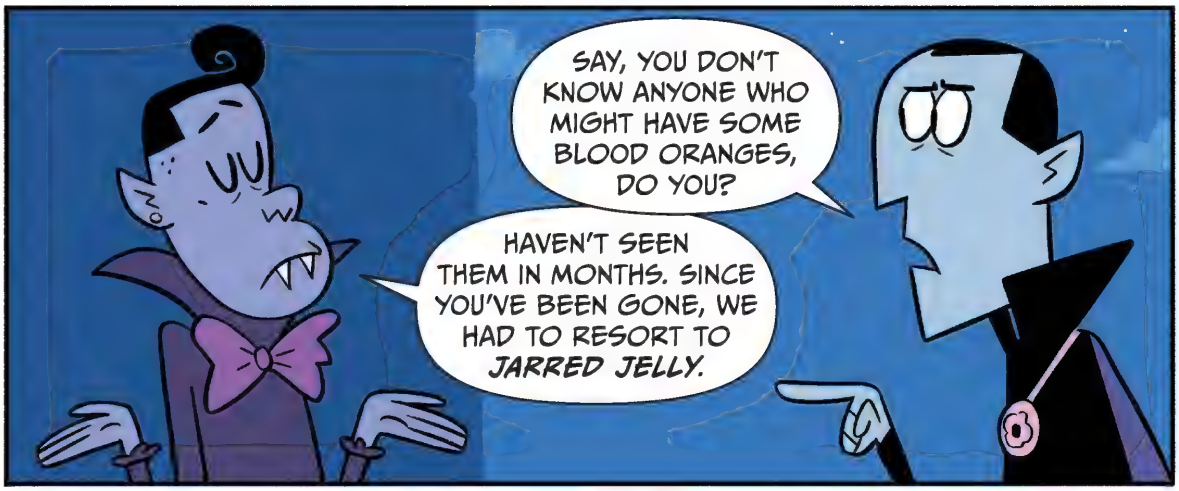
IT'S NOT JUST A JELLY SHORTAGE, IT'S A FRUIT SHORTAGE!
LET'S FIND VLAD. IF SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN THIS TOWN, HE KNOWS.

COUNT DRACULA! CAN I HAVE AN AUTOGRAPH?
I ENJOYED YOUR ARTICLE IN THE LATEST *BITE AND EARLY* MAGAZINE!
NICE TO SEE A VAMPIRE BACK IN TOWN. HOW 'BOUT ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR BRUNCHES SOON?
I LOVE MINGLING WITH HUMANS.
CAN I GET A SELFIE?

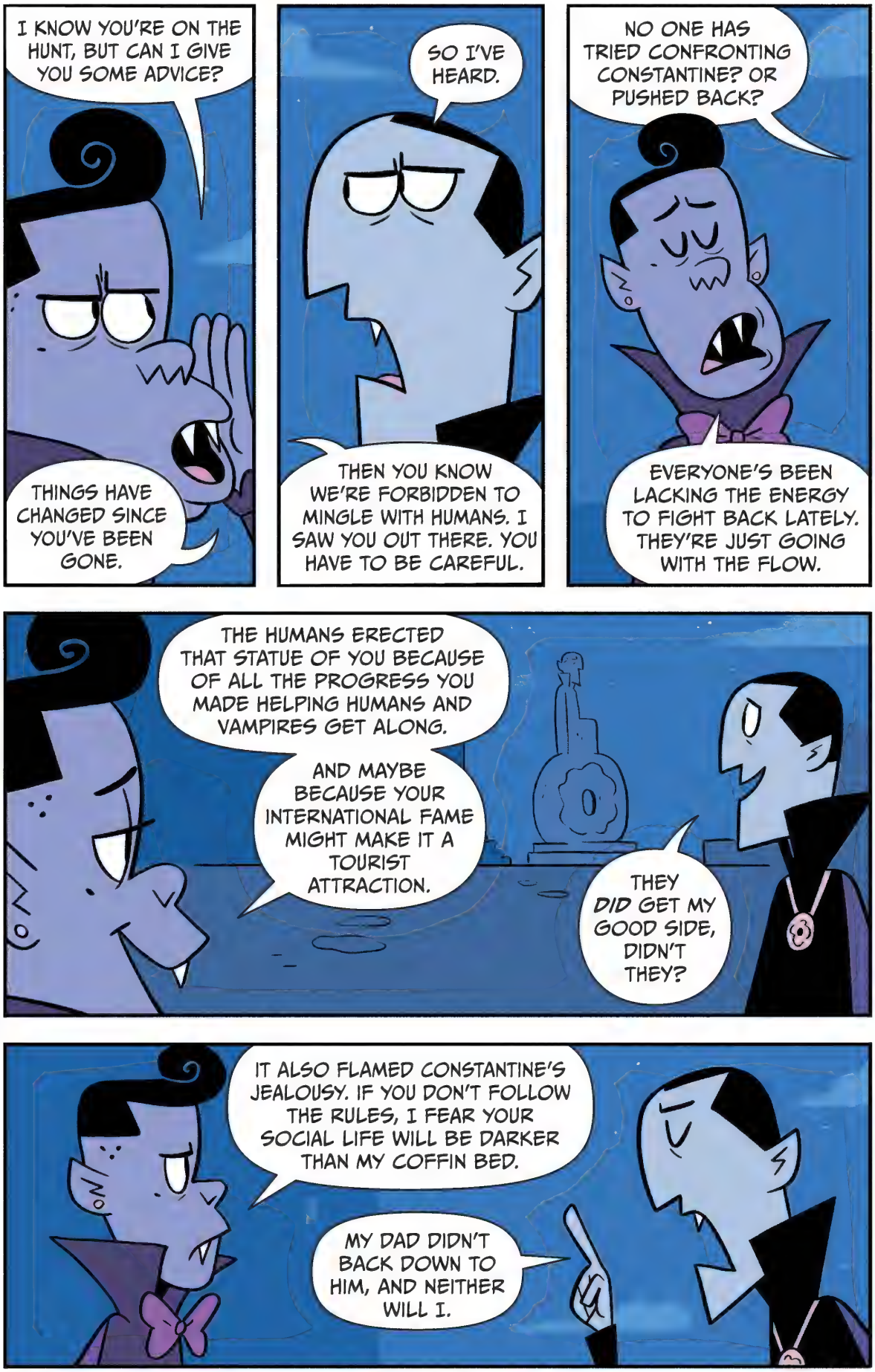
CHEF, ANY IDEA WHERE VLAD COULD BE?
NOT A VAMPIRE IN SIGHT. BUT I HAVE AN IDEA.
MISSING
HELLOOO, BOYS!

OH, VLAD, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, BUDDY.
NOTICE ANYTHING NEW?
HAIRCUT?
NOPE!
NEW BOW TIE?
PLEASE, THIS OLD THING?
WAIT. DID YOU GET FANG IMPLANTS?

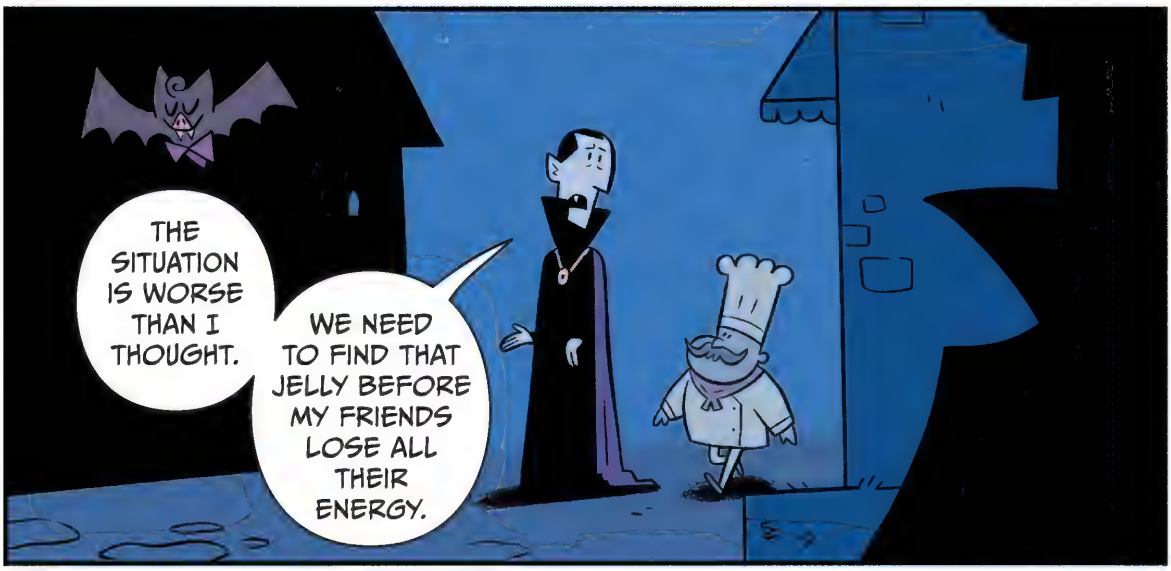




"WHEN I TURN INTO A BAT, I BARELY HAVE THE ENERGY TO FLY. I JUST HOPE FOR A STRONG WIND."


I KNOW YOU'RE ON THE HUNT, BUT CAN I GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE?
THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE.
SO I'VE HEARD.
THEN YOU KNOW WE'RE FORBIDDEN TO MINGLE WITH HUMANS. I SAW YOU OUT THERE. YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
NO ONE HAS TRIED CONFRONTING CONSTANTINE? OR PUSHED BACK?
EVERYONE'S BEEN LACKING THE ENERGY TO FIGHT BACK LATELY. THEY'RE JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW.
THE HUMANS ERECTED THAT STATUE OF YOU BECAUSE OF ALL THE PROGRESS YOU MADE HELPING HUMANS AND VAMPIRES GET ALONG.
AND MAYBE BECAUSE YOUR INTERNATIONAL FAME MIGHT MAKE IT A TOURIST ATTRACTION.
THEY *DID* GET MY GOOD SIDE, DIDN'T THEY?
IT ALSO FLAMED CONSTANTINE'S JEALOUSY. IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES, I FEAR YOUR SOCIAL LIFE WILL BE DARKER THAN MY COFFIN BED.
MY DAD DIDN'T BACK DOWN TO HIM, AND NEITHER WILL I.

THAT'S WHY HE HAS IT OUT FOR YOU. AND THESE NEW MEMBERS HAVE A WEIRD LOVE FOR CONSTANTINE.
THEY'LL DO WHATEVER HE SAYS.
ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT OUT HERE. GOT YOUR CROW MESSAGE.
CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE THESE PUPPIES FOR A TEST DRIVE IN THE JELLY DONUTS YOU BROUGHT BACK WITH YOU!


THE SITUATION IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
WE NEED TO FIND THAT JELLY BEFORE MY FRIENDS LOSE ALL THEIR ENERGY.

Ye Olde Cheese Shoppe
OPEN 10AM - 8PM
(SATURDAY VAMPIRE HOURS 8PM MIDNIGHT)
LET'S TRY HERE. MAYBE THEY HAVE THE JARRED STUFF AND WE CAN ADD OUR SPECIAL INGREDIENTS TO IT.
GOUDA IDEA.
NOT THE TIME FOR CHEESY CHEESE JOKES.

DING

WHAT AN HONOR TO HAVE A CULINARY MASTER HERE!

WELL, GOSH, I DON'T LIKE TO BRAG....
HE MEANS ME, YOU TWIT.

PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE A JAR OF JELLY FOR SALE?
OR JAM.

A CHEESE SHOP WITHOUT JAM? WHAT AM I, SOME KIND OF *MUNSTER*?
HAHAHA!

THE LOCK SEEMS TO BE JAMMED.
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!
LET ME GRAB A CROWBAR.
I NEED YOU TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, CHEF.
IF I CAN'T SERVE JELLY DONUTS TOMORROW, CONSTANTINE WILL USE IT AGAINST ME.

SORRY TO SAY, BOYS...
...BUT I'M FRESH OUT OF...
DING
OF...
YOU'RE FRESH OUT OF BLOOD ORANGE? WE'LL TAKE STRAWBERRY, THEN.
AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE SOME STASHED AWAY FOR ELENA'S CHARITY AUCTION.

GASP!
SWEET FANCY MIDNIGHT, *CONSTANTINE*. QUIT LURKING LIKE THAT.
ONE MUST LURK IN THE DARKNESS TO AVOID *VILE THINGS*. BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU?
YOUR FRIEND HERE SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU ABOUT SOME NEW POLICIES.
YOU HEAR THAT? WE'RE FRIENDS.

WHY ARE YOU IN TRANSYLVANIA? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M MAKING SURE YOU DON'T EMBARRASS ME AT *MY VAMPIRE* BRUNCH.
MY BRUNCH CLUB ALWAYS HAD HUMANS INCLUDED.
YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR A WHILE. THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
HALF OF THE VAMPIRE COMMUNITY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW YOU.
ORLOK, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
NEVER MET HIM.

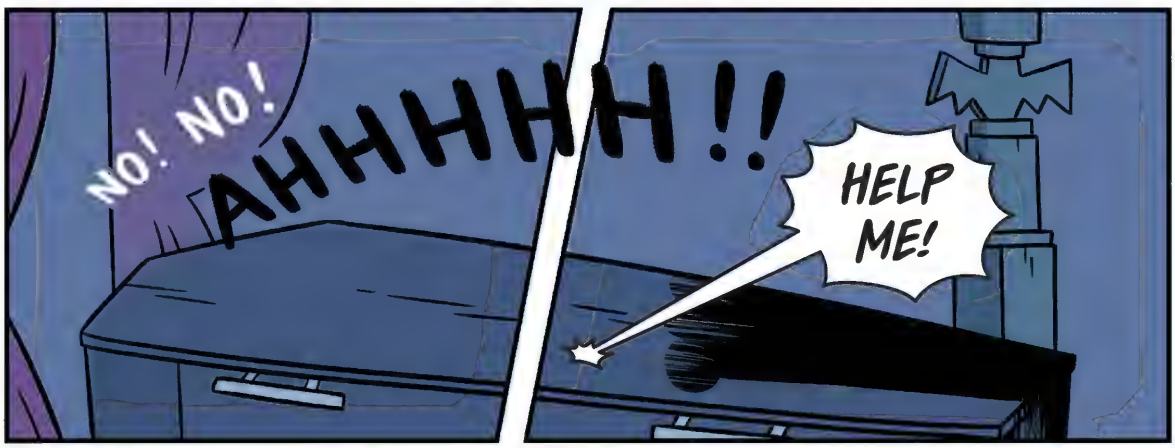
TO CROW EVERYONE ABOUT A BRUNCH THAT WASN'T APPROVED BY ME TAKES GUTS. I'LL LET THAT SLIDE, TOO...
...IF YOU CAN SUPPLY YOUR FAMOUS JELLY DONUTS.
WHY? HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO SUPPLY THEM WITH JELLY DONUTS SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE?
AND EVEN IF YOU DID, CHEF JELEU AND I BAKE THE MOST ENERGY-GIVING ONES.

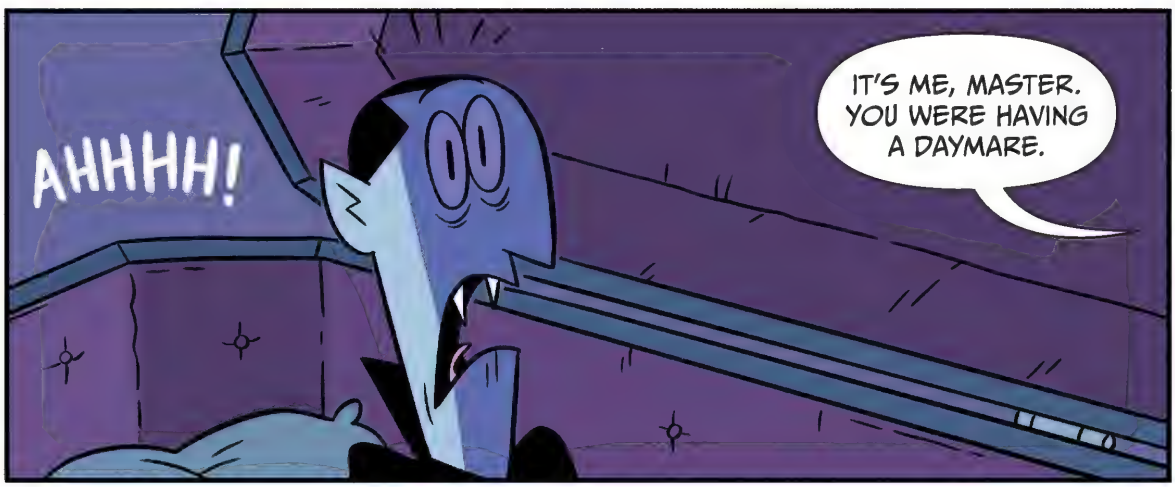
TECHNICALLY, THEY'RE FRIED.

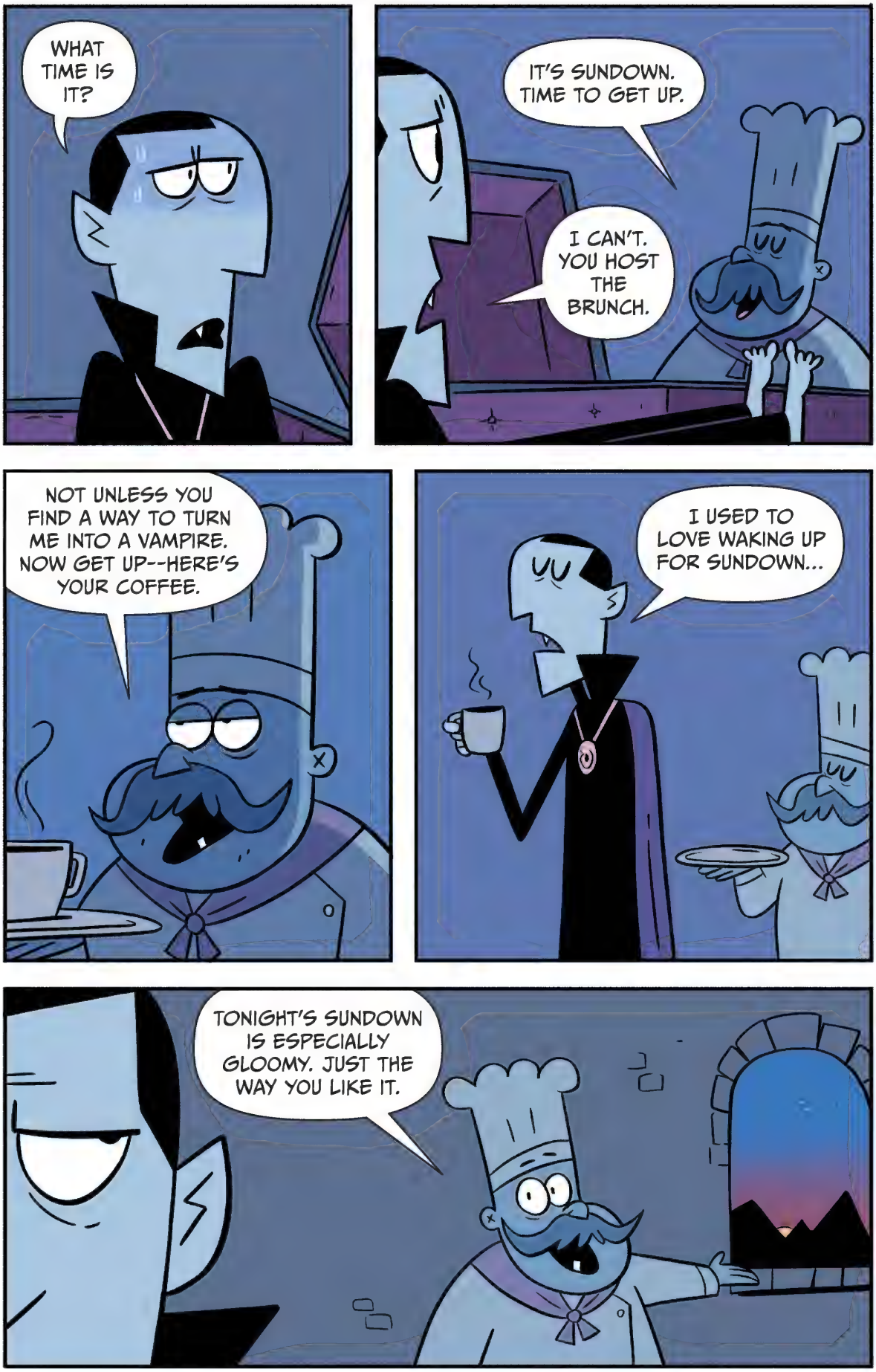
THEN IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM...
...RIGHT, COUNT DRACULA?

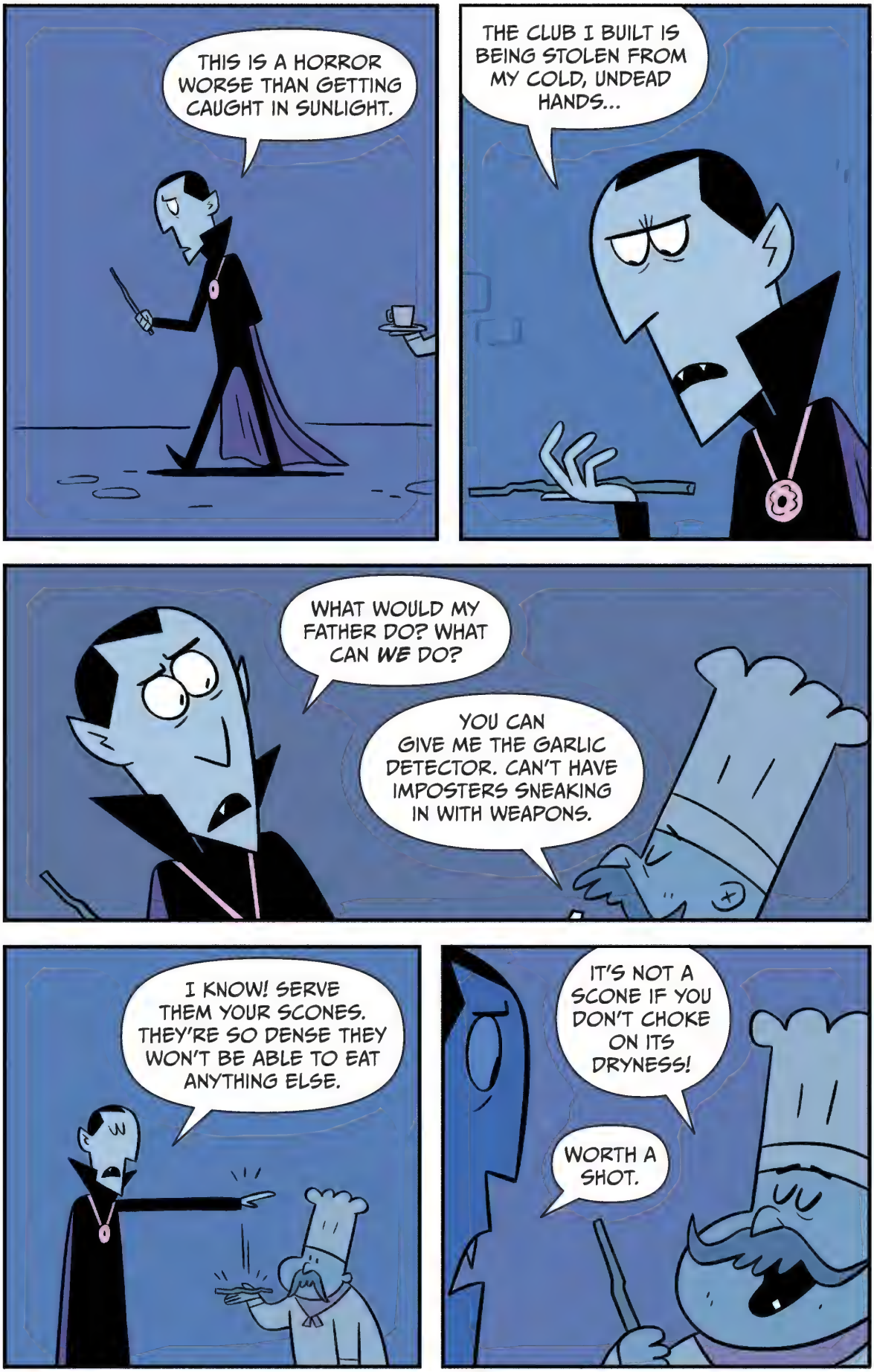
YOU'LL HAVE THEM.
IF NOT, THE VAMPIRES WILL SOON TURN ON YOU.
AND WHEN I FIND SOMETHING BETTER THAN JELLY, YOU AND YOUR BRUNCH CLUB WILL BE FORGOTTEN FOREVER.
SLAM!
IT'S UP TO ME TO CONTINUE MY FATHER'S WORK.
DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU FIND A JAR OF JELLY!

The Following Night


NO! NO!
AHHHHHH!!
HELP ME!


AHHHH!
IT'S ME, MASTER. YOU WERE HAVING A DAYMARE.


WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S SUNDOWN. TIME TO GET UP.
I CAN'T. YOU HOST THE BRUNCH.
NOT UNLESS YOU FIND A WAY TO TURN ME INTO A VAMPIRE. NOW GET UP--HERE'S YOUR COFFEE.
I USED TO LOVE WAKING UP FOR SUNDOWN...
TONIGHT'S SUNDOWN IS ESPECIALLY GLOOMY. JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT.


THIS IS A HORROR WORSE THAN GETTING CAUGHT IN SUNLIGHT.
THE CLUB I BUILT IS BEING STOLEN FROM MY COLD, UNDEAD HANDS...
WHAT WOULD MY FATHER DO? WHAT CAN *WE* DO?
YOU CAN GIVE ME THE GARLIC DETECTOR. CAN'T HAVE IMPOSTERS SNEAKING IN WITH WEAPONS.
I KNOW! SERVE THEM YOUR SCONES. THEY'RE SO DENSE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT ANYTHING ELSE.
IT'S NOT A SCONE IF YOU DON'T CHOKE ON ITS DRYNESS!
WORTH A SHOT.

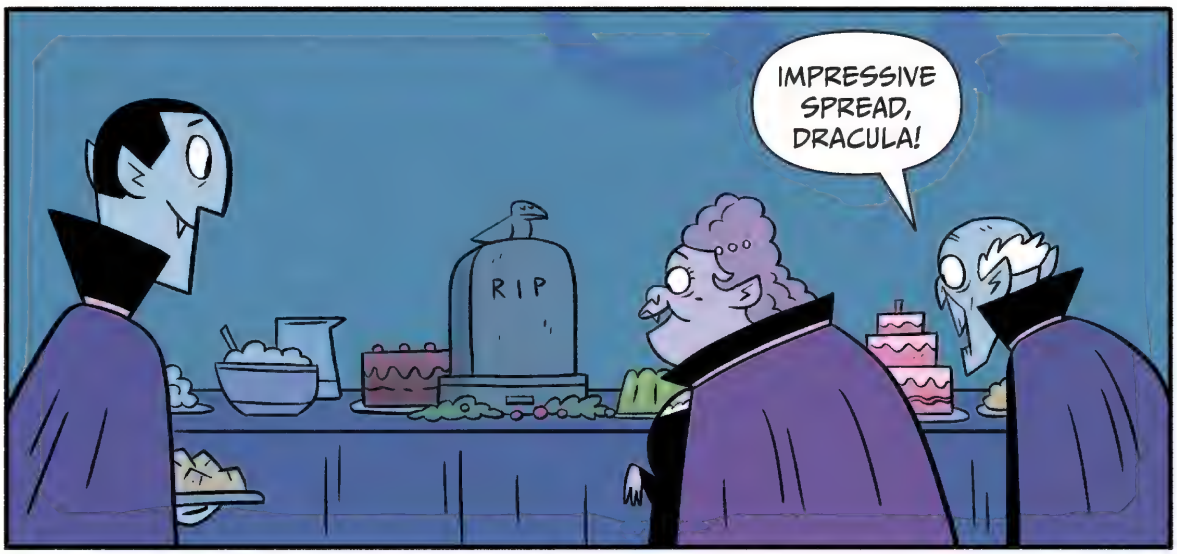
UNCH

THIS CASTLE IS ALWAYS SO COLD AND DARK... I *LOVE* IT.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

I DON'T WEAR PANTS AT HOME. MIGHT BE A BIT AWKWARD HERE.
SCONE?

INTERESTING!

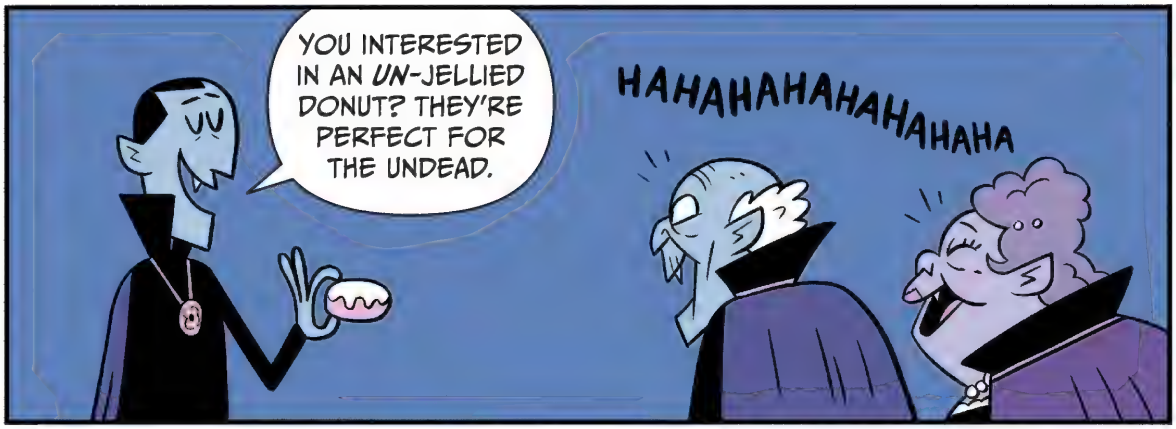
I THINK I NEED A DRINK.

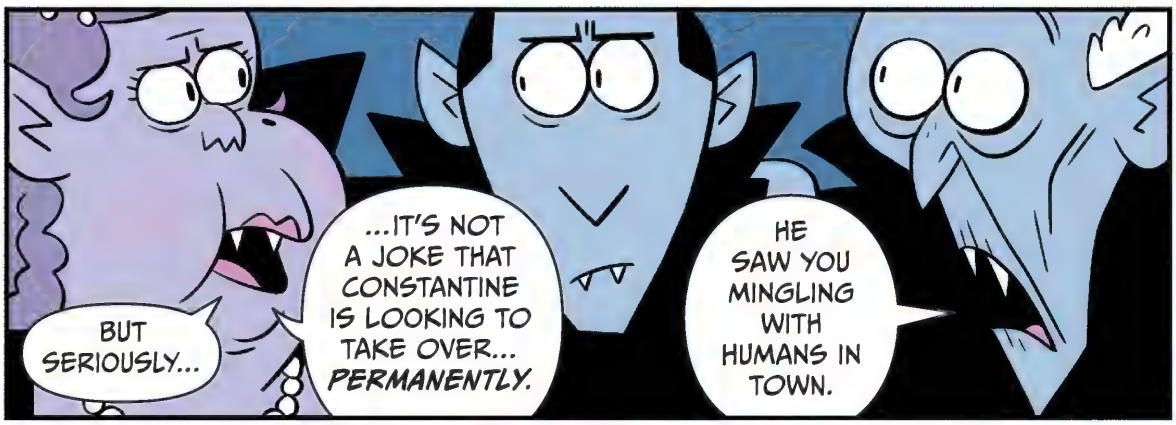

IMPRESSIVE SPREAD, DRACULA!
RIP

MY CHEF CAN BARELY MAKE TOAST.
I READ IN *CARPATHIAN QUARTERLY* THAT YOU MIGHT GET A SPIRIT AWARD?
RIP

YOUR JELLY DONUTS ARE SO AMAZING, THE GHOST GOURMET WOULD BE SILLY NOT TO GIVE YOU THE AWARD.

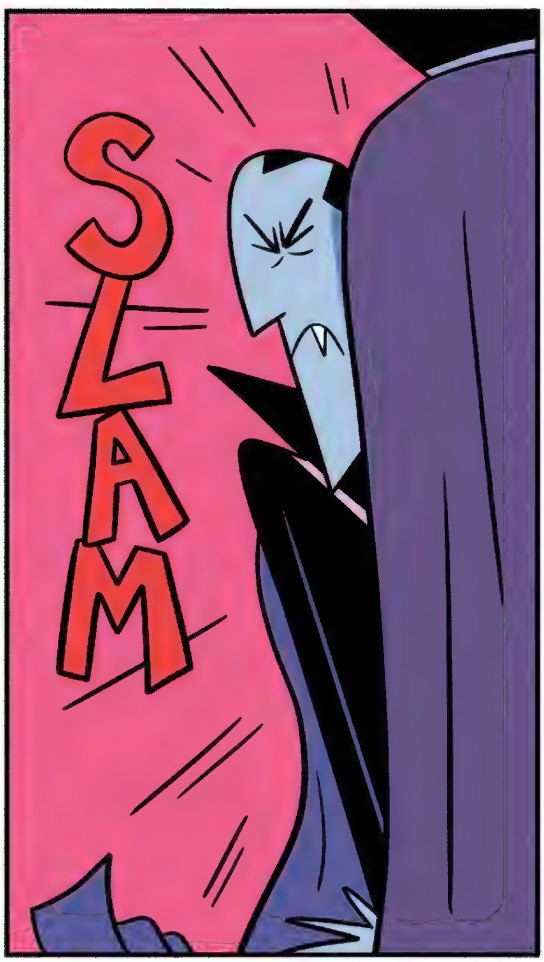
SPEAKING OF, WHERE ARE THE JELLY DONUTS? IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE I'VE HAD ONE. I FEEL SO WEAK...


YOU INTERESTED IN AN *UN*-JELLIED DONUT? THEY'RE PERFECT FOR THE UNDEAD.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

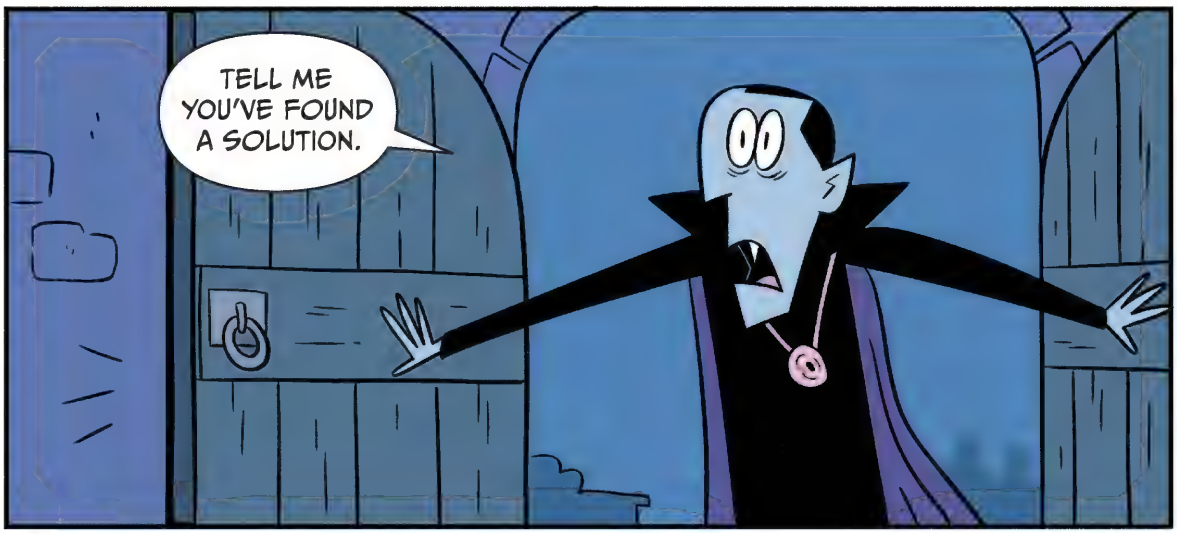

BUT SERIOUSLY...
...IT'S NOT A JOKE THAT CONSTANTINE IS LOOKING TO TAKE OVER... *PERMANENTLY.*
HE SAW YOU MINGLING WITH HUMANS IN TOWN.

HUMANS AREN'T A THREAT. OR BAD.
CONSTANTINE SAYS THEY'RE THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP US FROM LIVING FOREVER.
THAT'S NONSENSE.

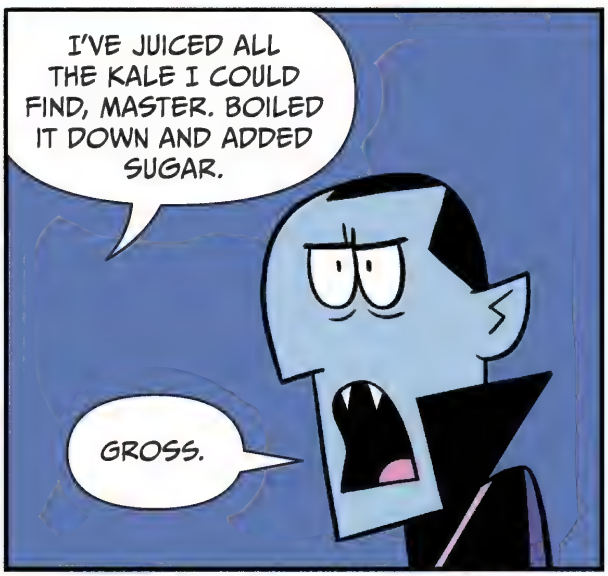
YOUR EVENING BREATH MIGHT KILL US, TOO.
WHAT? I BRUSHED MY FANGS BEFORE I CAME.


SLAM

WHAT IS THIS HORROR SHOW?
THAT'S MY DEAR AUNT SORINA.
NOT THE PAINTING, THIS SCONE.
THEY'RE BETTER WITH TEA.
I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! WHERE'S THE JELLY THAT EVERYONE IS SALIVATING FOR?
LET ME CHECK.


TELL ME YOU'VE FOUND A SOLUTION.

KALE.

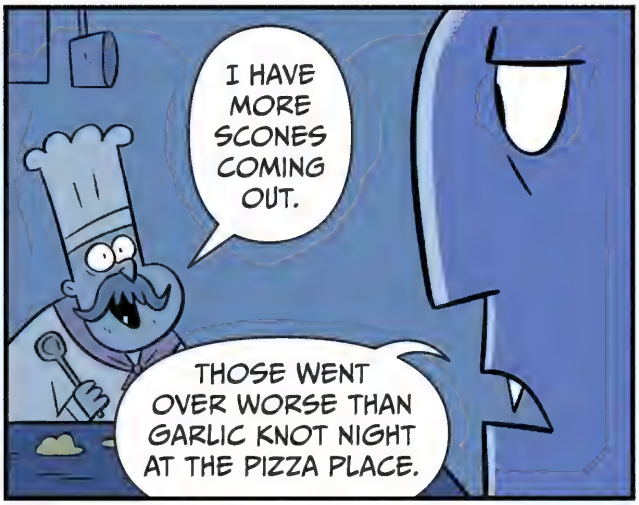

I'VE JUICED ALL THE KALE I COULD FIND, MASTER. BOILED IT DOWN AND ADDED SUGAR.
GROSS.

UGH! IT JUST WON'T SET LIKE JELLY.

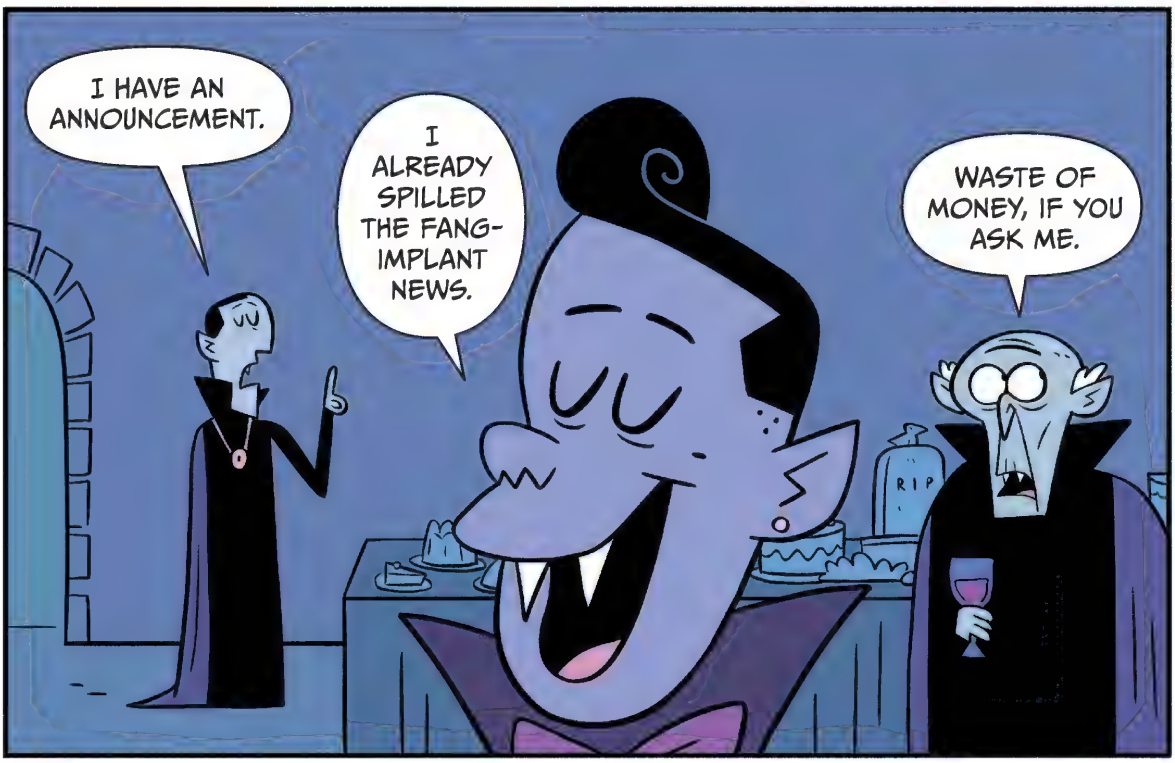
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T SMELL LIKE JELLY.

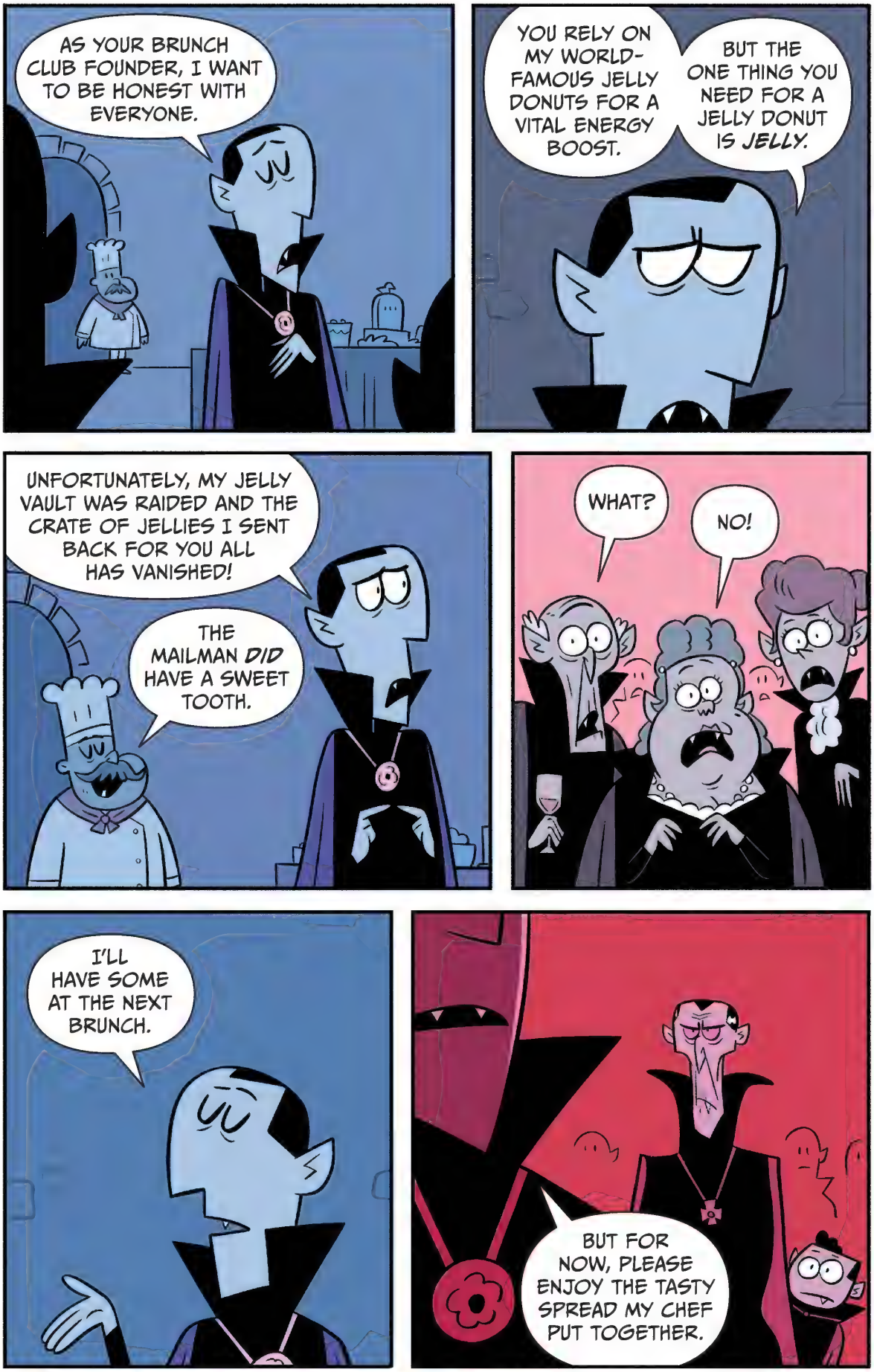
GROSS, IT'S A SALAD DONUT.

THEY'RE ALL WHISPERING, CHEF. WE'RE DOOMED!

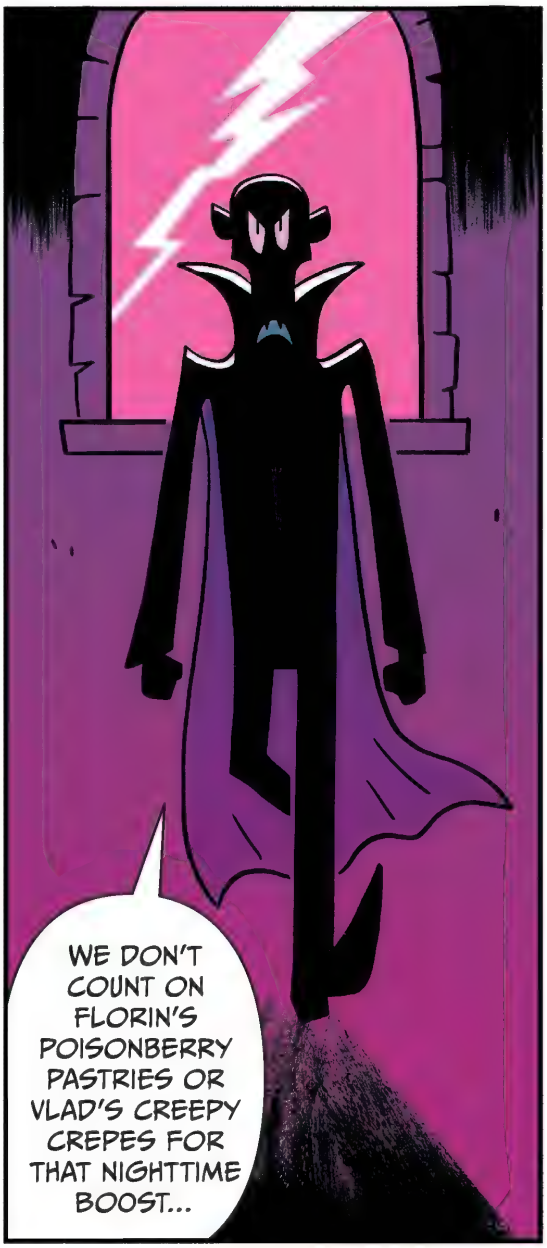

I HAVE MORE SCONES COMING OUT.
THOSE WENT OVER WORSE THAN GARLIC KNOT NIGHT AT THE PIZZA PLACE.

I HAVE TO OWN UP. I'LL SHOW THEM I'M STILL THE LEADER I WAS SIX MONTHS AGO...
...STARTING WITH THE *TRUTH*.


I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.
I ALREADY SPILLED THE FANG-IMPLANT NEWS.
WASTE OF MONEY, IF YOU ASK ME.
RIP

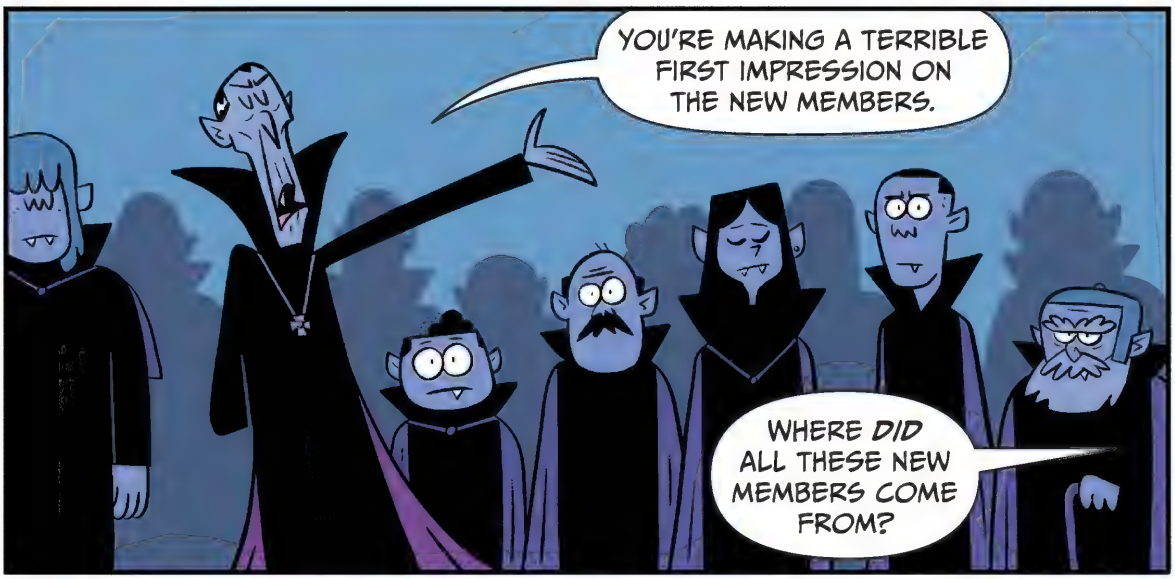

AS YOUR BRUNCH CLUB FOUNDER, I WANT TO BE HONEST WITH EVERYONE.
YOU RELY ON MY WORLD-FAMOUS JELLY DONUTS FOR A VITAL ENERGY BOOST.
BUT THE ONE THING YOU NEED FOR A JELLY DONUT IS *JELLY*.
UNFORTUNATELY, MY JELLY VAULT WAS RAIDED AND THE CRATE OF JELLIES I SENT BACK FOR YOU ALL HAS VANISHED!
THE MAILMAN *DID* HAVE A SWEET TOOTH.
WHAT?
NO!
I'LL HAVE SOME AT THE NEXT BRUNCH.
BUT FOR NOW, PLEASE ENJOY THE TASTY SPREAD MY CHEF PUT TOGETHER.

UNACCEP
TABLE!


WE DON'T COUNT ON FLORIN'S POISONBERRY PASTRIES OR VLAD'S CREEPY CREPES FOR THAT NIGHTTIME BOOST...

...AND WE DON'T COME HERE TO ADMIRE THE POMADE IN YOUR HAIR.
WE COME FOR *BLOOD ORANGE JELLY DONUTS*--NOT BLAND FOOD THAT ONLY GIVES HUMANS ENERGY.

AND THIS WORLD TOUR, THE CHARITY AUCTION...
...WHAT KIND OF "LEADER" GIVES HIS JELLY TO HUMANS BUT NOT TO HIS OWN KIND?


YOU'RE MAKING A TERRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION ON THE NEW MEMBERS.
WHERE *DID* ALL THESE NEW MEMBERS COME FROM?

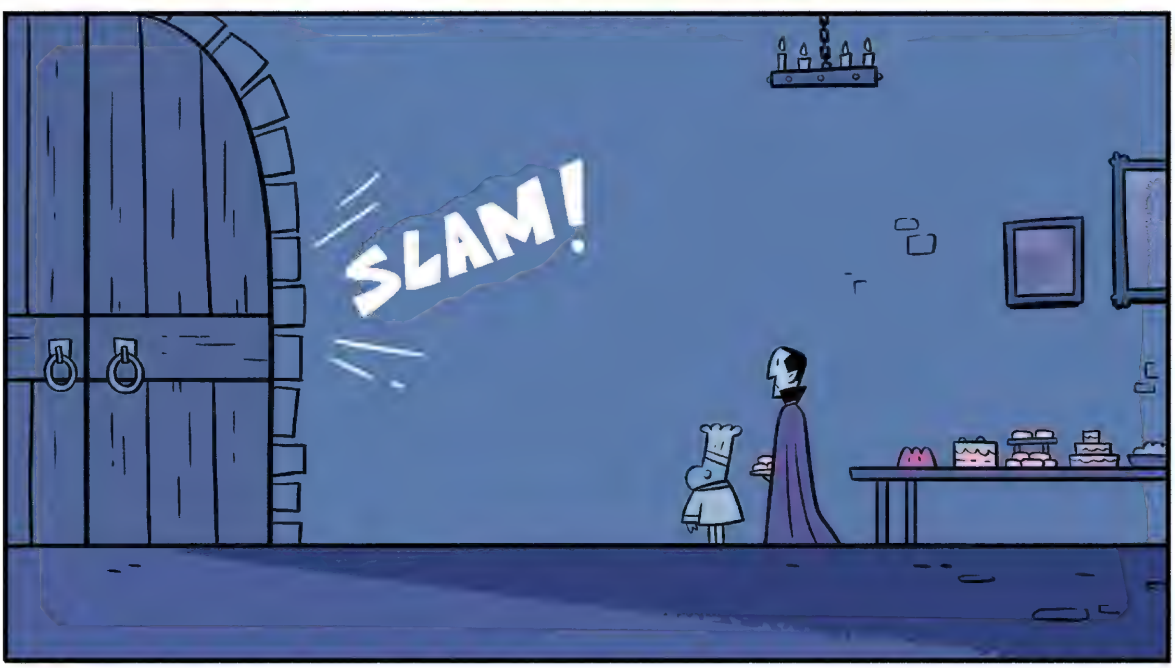
HAVE YOU TRIED THE OTHER DONUTS? THE TRANSYLVANIAN CREAM IS LIKE A BOSTON CREAM, BUT IT'S--
A DISGRACE!
LOOK AT EVERYONE, THEY NEED A RECHARGE.
YOU SEEM PRETTY CHARGED UP.
THIS IS HIGHLY DISAPPOINTING.
A GOOD LEADER TAKES CARE OF HIS.
HOW CAN YOU DO THAT IF YOU'RE OUT THERE HELPING THOSE VILE HUMANS INSTEAD OF VAMPIRES?
LET'S GO. BRUNCH IS OVER.

THIS IS YOUR CASTLE, MASTER.
THIS IS MY CASTLE, AND I COMMAND YOU TO STAY.
THAT MAY HAVE WORKED SIX MONTHS AGO, BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
COME ON, GANG...I'VE LOST MY APPETITE.

VLAD, COME ON. YOU WANT A FRENCH CRULLER?
DON'T INSULT THE CRULLERS. THEY'RE ROMANIAN.

SORRY, DRAC. I NEED TO BE ON CONSTANTINE'S GOOD SIDE IF I WANT A SOCIAL LIFE.
WILL YOU SPEAK TO THEM FOR ME?

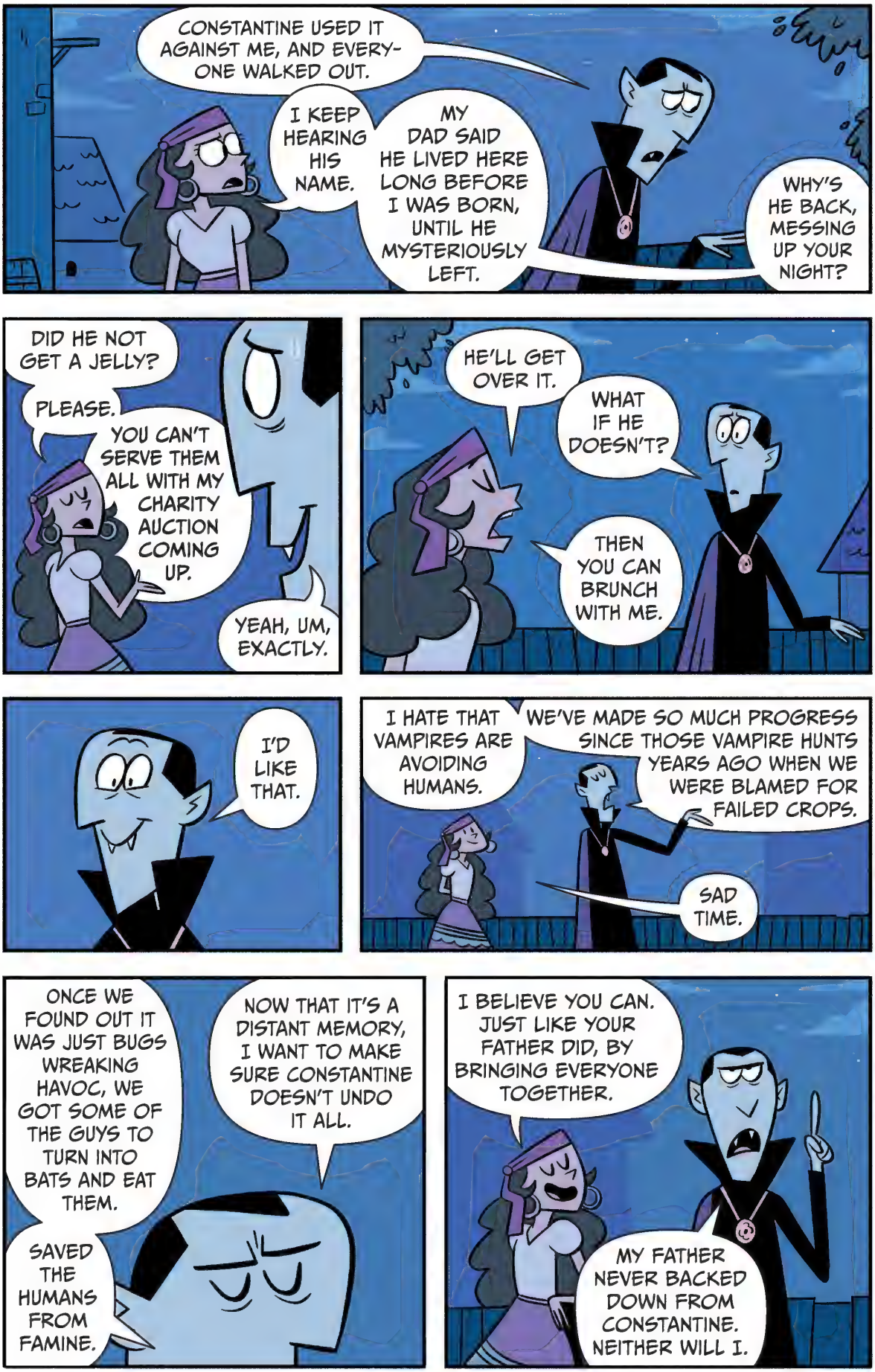
I'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD. BUT WITHOUT YOUR JELLIES, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.


SLAM!

SHALL I SEE MYSELF TO THE DISCIPLINE DUNGEON, MASTER?
WHUMP
I'M TOO DISTRAUGHT TO BE TYRANNICAL.
AS YOU WISH.
WITHOUT JELLY, HOW WILL I HAVE ALL-NIGHT ENERGY?
HOW WILL I HELP THE VAMPIRES... AND ELENA?
HOW WILL I GET MY SPIRIT AWARD?
HOW WILL I TAKE BACK MY BRUNCH CLUB?
AHHHHH!

Later that night...
IT'S GONE! IT'S REALLY GONE!
COUNTIE, IS THAT YOU? DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING?
WORSE.
SOME-ONE?
WORSE.
PAPERCUT TO YOUR EYEBALL?
OOH... I LIKE YOUR THINKING.
CAN I USE THAT FOR MY DISCIPLINE DUNGEON?

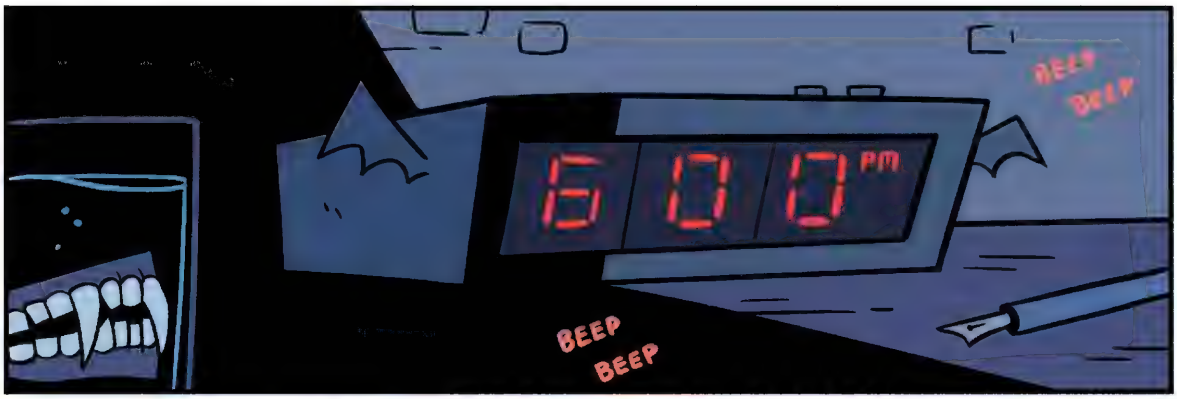
WELL, WHAT IS IT THEN? YOU KNOW YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING.
IT'S NOTHING.
COME ON! WE'RE BOTH CREATURES OF THE NIGHT. WHAT OTHER NON-VAMPIRE HANGS OUT AT THIS HOUR?
I THINK I KNOW YOU ENOUGH TO TELL THERE'S A PROBLEM.
THE BRUNCH CLUB DIDN'T GO WELL.
IT'S YOUR CLUB. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
I WAS RUNNING SHORT IN THE JELLY DEPARTMENT TODAY.
ME TOO! I WENT SHOPPING FOR SOME TODAY BUT CAME BACK WITH RAISINS. I DON'T EVEN *LIKE* RAISINS.


CONSTANTINE USED IT AGAINST ME, AND EVERY-ONE WALKED OUT.
I KEEP HEARING HIS NAME.
MY DAD SAID HE LIVED HERE LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN, UNTIL HE MYSTERIOUSLY LEFT.
WHY'S HE BACK, MESSING UP YOUR NIGHT?
DID HE NOT GET A JELLY?
PLEASE.
YOU CAN'T SERVE THEM ALL WITH MY CHARITY AUCTION COMING UP.
YEAH, UM, EXACTLY.
HE'LL GET OVER IT.
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T?
THEN YOU CAN BRUNCH WITH ME.
I'D LIKE THAT.
I HATE THAT VAMPIRES ARE AVOIDING HUMANS.
WE'VE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS SINCE THOSE VAMPIRE HUNTS YEARS AGO WHEN WE WERE BLAMED FOR FAILED CROPS.
SAD TIME.
ONCE WE FOUND OUT IT WAS JUST BUGS WREAKING HAVOC, WE GOT SOME OF THE GUYS TO TURN INTO BATS AND EAT THEM.
SAVED THE HUMANS FROM FAMINE.
NOW THAT IT'S A DISTANT MEMORY, I WANT TO MAKE SURE CONSTANTINE DOESN'T UNDO IT ALL.
I BELIEVE YOU CAN. JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER DID, BY BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER.
MY FATHER NEVER BACKED DOWN FROM CONSTANTINE. NEITHER WILL I.

WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER FOR DINNER TOMORROW NIGHT?
THE SUN IS SETTING EARLIER THIS TIME OF YEAR, SO WE WON'T EAT UNTIL AFTER SUNSET.
YOU KNOW ME SO WELL.
MAYBE AFTERWARD YOU CAN TEACH ME HOW TO HYPNOTIZE SOMEONE.
THAT'S A TRICK ONLY FOR VAMPIRES.
I WON'T TELL IF YOU DON'T.
KEEP YOUR PALE CHIN UP, COUNTIE!

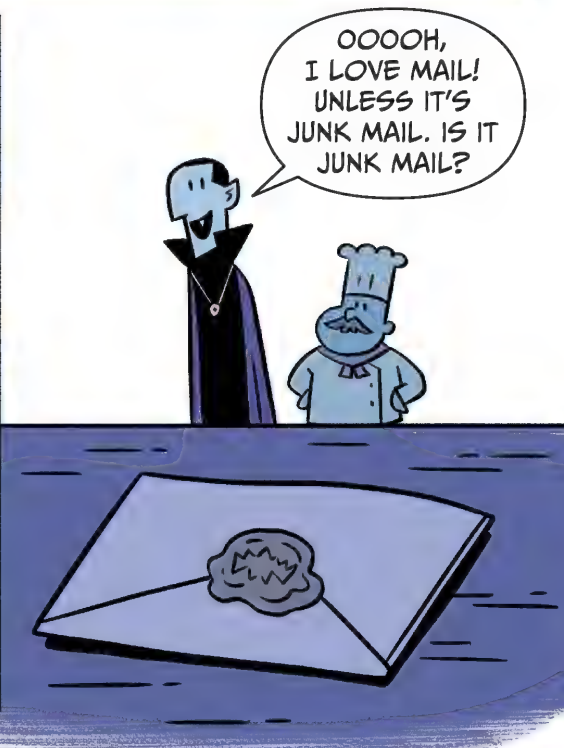
CHEF! I'M HOME.
MAKE IT STOP!
SOMEBODY SAVE ME!
CHEF, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?
I FELT SO BAD ABOUT THE BRUNCH THAT I PUT MYSELF IN THE DISCIPLINE DUNGEON.
AND HOW MANY PEAS HAVE YOU CONSUMED?
AT LEAST 40.
GOOD GRIEF, CHEF, THIS IS THE DISCIPLINE DUNGEON, NOT A TORTURE CHAMBER. FIVE PEAS MAX IS ENOUGH TO LEARN YOUR LESSON.

USUALLY THE SCREAMS OF THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED ME MAKE ME HAPPY...AND MAKE ME FEEL IN CHARGE OF THIS CASTLE.
BUT AFTER BEING HUMILIATED, I'M FEELING EMPATHETIC. LET'S RELEASE EVERYONE.
EVEN THE GARDENER?
EH, HE COULD USE A FEW MORE DAYS.
I GUESS HE DIDN'T LIKE THE MANDATORY WEEKEND WORK, MASTER.
Dracula's Castle
SUCKS
I'M OFF TO BED. WAKE ME IN THE EVENING WITH SOME GOOD NEWS.

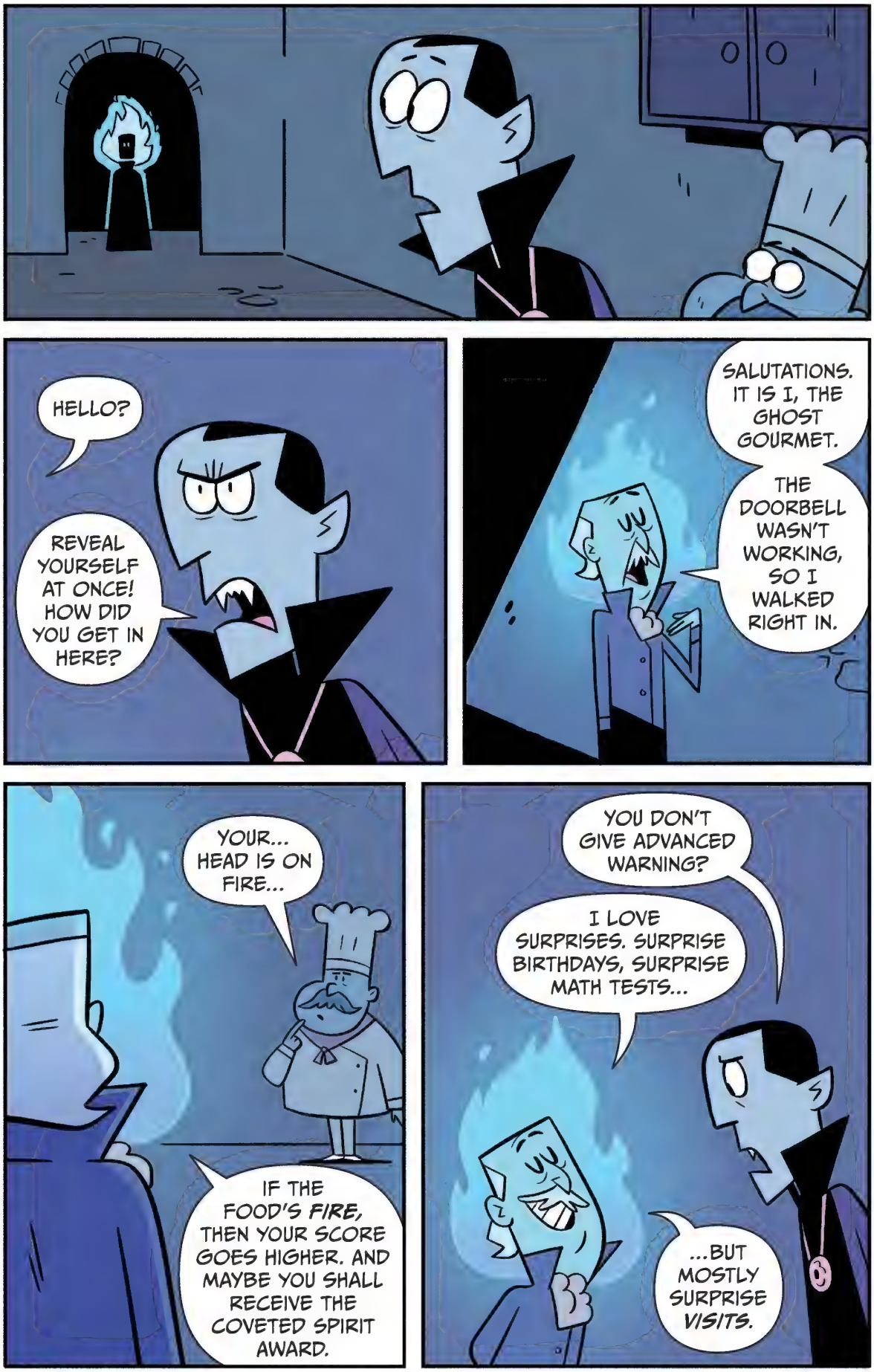

6 0 0 PM
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

SIGH

DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR ME?
A LETTER ARRIVED THIS AFTERNOON.


OOOOH, I LOVE MAIL! UNLESS IT'S JUNK MAIL. IS IT JUNK MAIL?

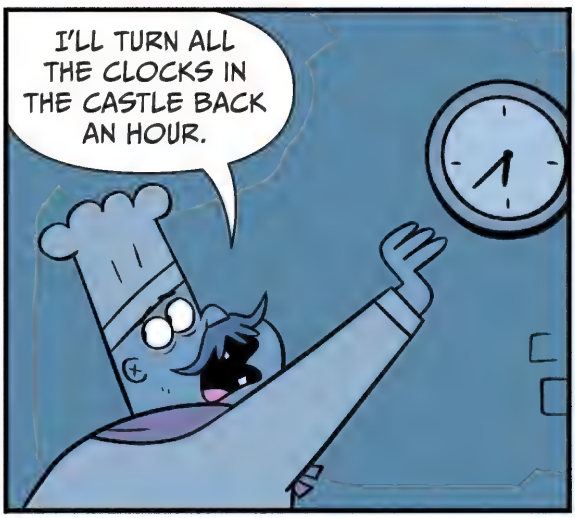
MAYBE IT'S MY JELLY OF THE MONTH CLUB SAYING THEY'LL SEND NEW JARS SOON?
SHALL I READ IT?
Dear Count Dracula,
We are writing to inform you that your membership in the Vampire Brunch Club is under review for the following reasons--
• Failure to deliver jelly donuts.
• Poor overall hosting performance.
• Dry scones that led to a choking incident.
• Music playlist not scary enough.
We will let you know when our decision is made.
Regards,
Constantine and the Vampire Brunch Club Board
VAMPIRE BRUNCH CLUB?
NO WAY MY PLAYLIST WASN'T SCARY ENOUGH.
THIS IS MY DARKEST FEAR, CHEF. THIS NIGHT CAN'T POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE.


HELLO?
REVEAL YOURSELF AT ONCE! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
SALUTATIONS. IT IS I, THE GHOST GOURMET.
THE DOORBELL WASN'T WORKING, SO I WALKED RIGHT IN.
YOUR... HEAD IS ON FIRE...
IF THE FOOD'S *FIRE*, THEN YOUR SCORE GOES HIGHER. AND MAYBE YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE COVETED SPIRIT AWARD.
YOU DON'T GIVE ADVANCED WARNING?
I LOVE SURPRISES. SURPRISE BIRTHDAYS, SURPRISE MATH TESTS...
...BUT MOSTLY SURPRISE *VISITS.*

OH GOOD, WE LOVE SURPRISES, TOO, DON'T WE, CHEF JELEU?
FRANKLY, I'M *SURPRISED* I HAVEN'T BEEN FED TO THE CREATURE IN THE MOAT YET.

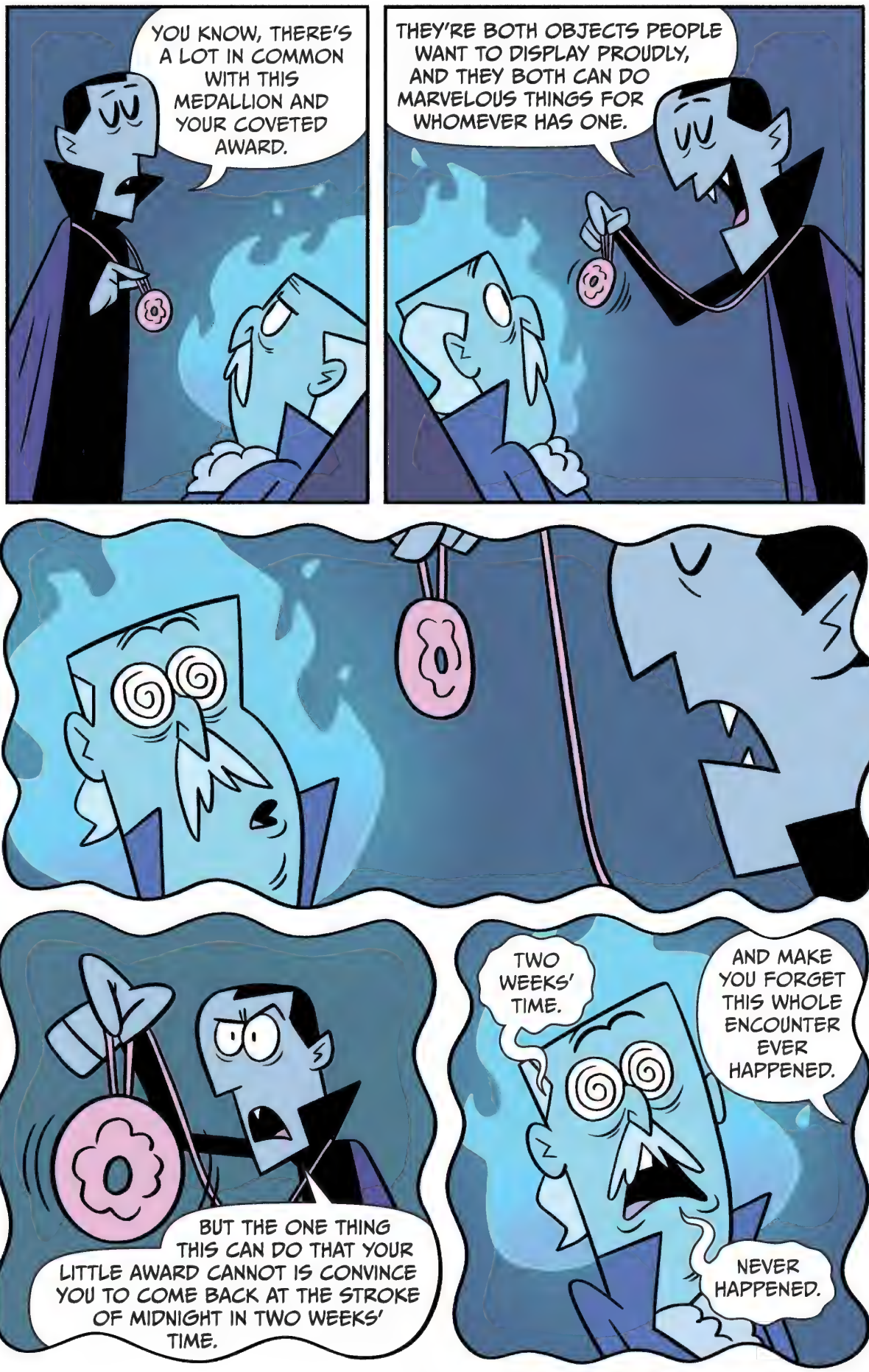
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE WHILE WE WHIP UP A BATCH OF...SOMETHING FOR YOU.

MASTER, THE SPIRIT AWARD IS THE TOP CULINARY HONOR IN TRANSYLVANIA!
WHAT SHALL WE MAKE IF THERE'S NO JELLY?
I KNOW. I NEED TO BUY SOME TIME.


I'LL TURN ALL THE CLOCKS IN THE CASTLE BACK AN HOUR.

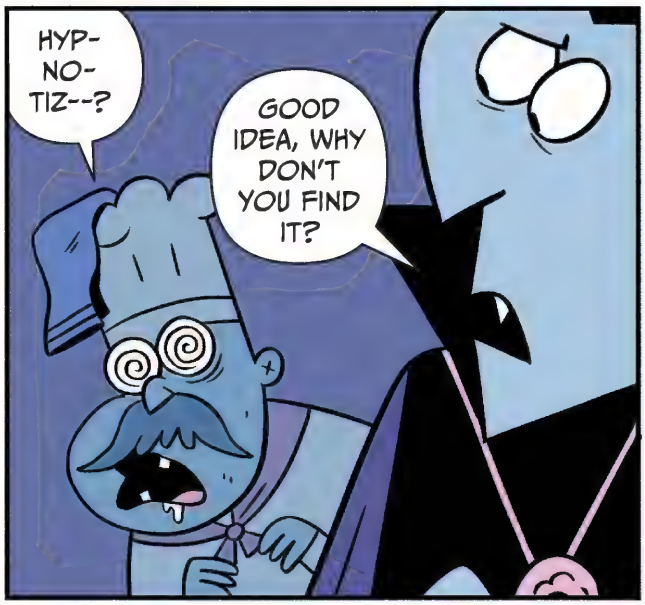
NO, YOU FOOL. THE GHOST GOURMET NEEDS TO COME BACK LATER. STAY HERE. AND WHATEVER YOU DO, *DON'T LOOK.*

I LOVE YOUR LIVING ROOM.
WE PREFER TO CALL IT THE *UN*-LIVING ROOM.
WHY DON'T YOU SIT BACK AND RELAX...
DON'T MIND IF I DO.
MAYBE NOT THAT FAR BACK?


YOU KNOW, THERE'S A LOT IN COMMON WITH THIS MEDALLION AND YOUR COVETED AWARD.
THEY'RE BOTH OBJECTS PEOPLE WANT TO DISPLAY PROUDLY, AND THEY BOTH CAN DO MARVELOUS THINGS FOR WHOMEVER HAS ONE.
BUT THE ONE THING THIS CAN DO THAT YOUR LITTLE AWARD CANNOT IS CONVINCE YOU TO COME BACK AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT IN TWO WEEKS' TIME.
TWO WEEKS' TIME.
AND MAKE YOU FORGET THIS WHOLE ENCOUNTER EVER HAPPENED.
NEVER HAPPENED.

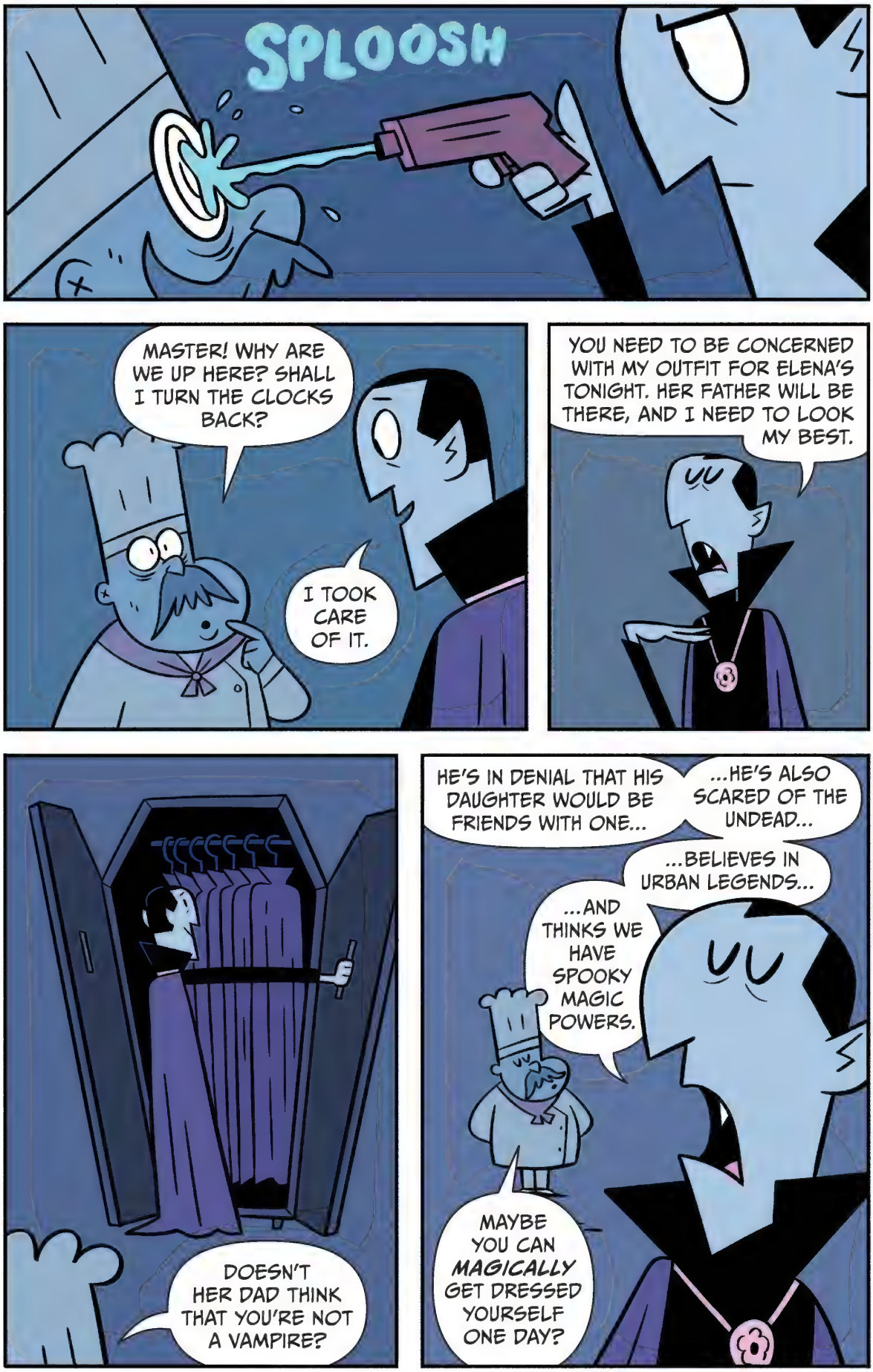
I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE.
WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BE BACK IN TWO WEEKS.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LOOK!

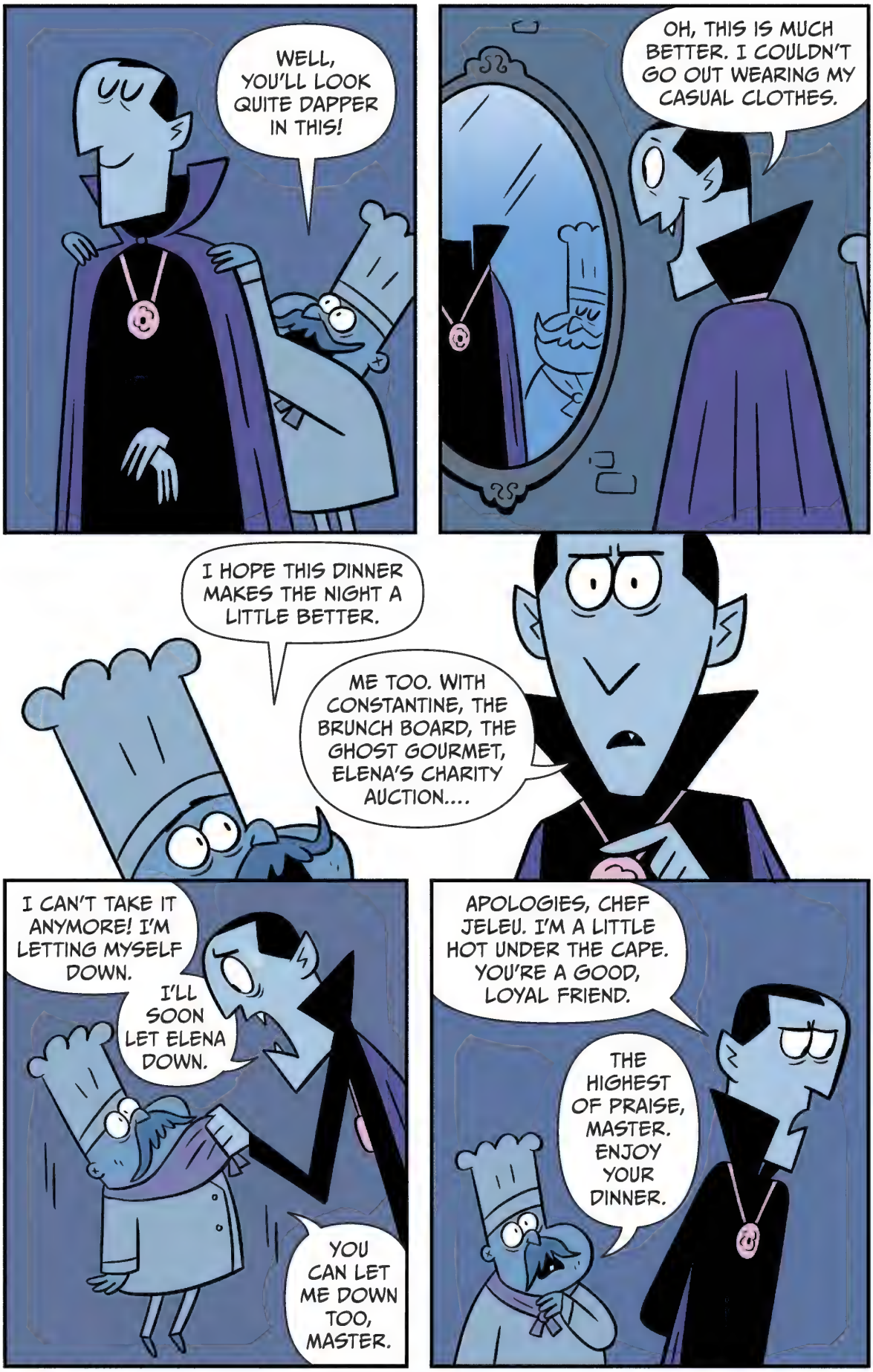
I KNOW MY UN-HYPNOTIZING SERUM IS SOMEWHERE.


HYP-NO-TIZ--?
GOOD IDEA, WHY DON'T YOU FIND IT?

I COMMAND YOU TO FIND MY UN-HYPNOTIZING SERUM.

WELL, THAT WAS EASY.

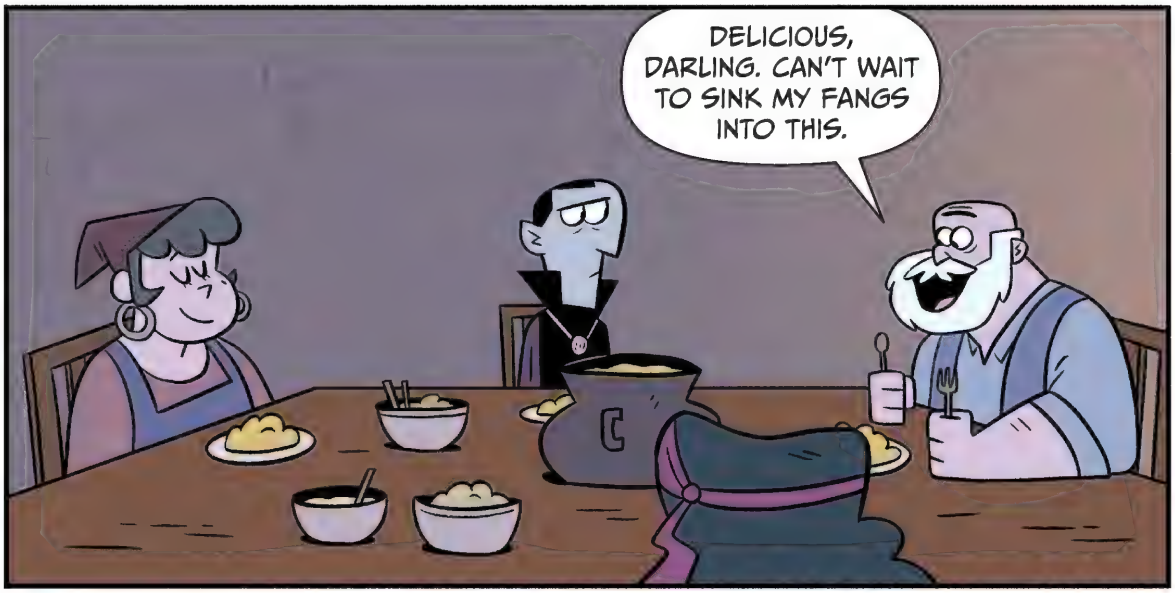

SPLOOSH
MASTER! WHY ARE WE UP HERE? SHALL I TURN THE CLOCKS BACK?
I TOOK CARE OF IT.
YOU NEED TO BE CONCERNED WITH MY OUTFIT FOR ELENA'S TONIGHT. HER FATHER WILL BE THERE, AND I NEED TO LOOK MY BEST.
DOESN'T HER DAD THINK THAT YOU'RE NOT A VAMPIRE?
HE'S IN DENIAL THAT HIS DAUGHTER WOULD BE FRIENDS WITH ONE...
...HE'S ALSO SCARED OF THE UNDEAD...
...BELIEVES IN URBAN LEGENDS...
...AND THINKS WE HAVE SPOOKY MAGIC POWERS.
MAYBE YOU CAN *MAGICALLY* GET DRESSED YOURSELF ONE DAY?


WELL, YOU'LL LOOK QUITE DAPPER IN THIS!
OH, THIS IS MUCH BETTER. I COULDN'T GO OUT WEARING MY CASUAL CLOTHES.
I HOPE THIS DINNER MAKES THE NIGHT A LITTLE BETTER.
ME TOO. WITH CONSTANTINE, THE BRUNCH BOARD, THE GHOST GOURMET, ELENA'S CHARITY AUCTION....
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I'M LETTING MYSELF DOWN.
I'LL SOON LET ELENA DOWN.
YOU CAN LET ME DOWN TOO, MASTER.
APOLOGIES, CHEF JELEU. I'M A LITTLE HOT UNDER THE CAPE. YOU'RE A GOOD, LOYAL FRIEND.
THE HIGHEST OF PRAISE, MASTER. ENJOY YOUR DINNER.

COUNTIE, YOU MADE IT!
EVENING, MRS. BUKOVINA. THESE ARE FOR YOU.
WHY, THANK YOU, COUNT DRACULA! RED LIKE YOUR FAMOUS JELLY DONUTS.
AND THESE ARE FOR YOU.
WHY, THANK YOU. BLACK LIKE YOUR HEART.

WELL, WELL, COUNT DRACULA...
HELLO, MR. BUKOVINA. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME OVER.
CAN I GET YOU A DRINK? YOU SEEM A LITTLE PALE.
DADDY, HE'S ALWAYS THIS PALE.
OH RIGHT. I FORGOT HE'S NORWEGIAN.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M UNDEAD.
ALWAYS A JOKESTER, COUNT DRACULA!

COME SIT, YOU MUST HAVE HAD A LONG DAY.
ACTUALLY, I JUST WOKE UP.
BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL? I LOVE A HARD-WORKING MAN.
SALT IS A VAMPIRE WEAKNESS, SINCE IT'S SAID TO PROHIBIT THE UNDEAD FROM RISING.
WHY, WHEN I WAS A BOY, I WORKED 12-HOUR DAYS WITH ONLY ONE WATER BREAK....
...AND THEN WHEN THE WOLF TRIED TO ATTACK THE FAMILY CHICKENS, I PICKED IT UP WITH MY BARE HANDS AND...
...AND THAT'S WHEN I STOPPED THE NONSENSE AND GOT A HORSE TO PLOW THE FIELD.
FASCINATING, RIGHT?
I WAS HOPING IT WOULD NEVER END.
WHO'S HUNGRY?


DELICIOUS, DARLING. CAN'T WAIT TO SINK MY FANGS INTO THIS.

DADDY, I TOLD YOU NOT TO USE VAMPIRE JOKES AROUND COUNT DRACULA.

WHY? HE'S NOT A VAMPIRE... MORE OF A "JAM-FRYER." HOW'S YOUR DONUT EMPIRE?

IT'S NOT REALLY AN EMPIRE.

OH COUNTIE, DON'T BE MODEST.
YOU'RE FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD.
AND YOUR DONUTS ARE TURNING MY CHARITY AUCTION INTO A SUCCESS.
I DO WHAT I CAN.

THIS WILL BE MY BIGGEST EVENT YET. I'VE SOLD A THOUSAND TICKETS SO FAR.
THINK OF ALL THE SICK KIDS THAT'LL HELP.

CAN I COUNT ON A BID FROM YOU, COUNT DRACULA?
WE'RE AUCTIONING MY MOM'S ANTIQUE MIRROR.

DADDY, YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T HAVE A REFLECTION.
WHY NOT?

BECAUSE I'M A VAMPIRE.

I MAY BE OLD, BUT I'M NOT GULLIBLE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM DO A SINGLE MAGIC TRICK YET...
...AND THE GUY TWO FARMS DOWN SAYS ALL VAMPIRES PRACTICE SPOOKY MAGIC.

BUT DAD, HE WEARS ALL BLACK.
SO DO ROCK STARS.
HE HAS A CAPE.
LOOKS LIKE A CLOAK. THEY'RE ALL THE RAGE IN LONDON.

HE CAN TURN INTO A BAT.
THAT SURE WAS A GREAT HALLOWEEN COSTUME! ALMOST HAD ME FOOLED LAST YEAR.

LOOK, I KNEW YOUR FATHER. WE WENT NIGHT FISHING TOGETHER WHEN I WAS A KID. HE NEVER SPOKE ABOUT VAMPIRES.
IN FACT, HE WAS ALWAYS ANNOYED AT THAT EVIL CONSTANTINE.

THAT'S BECAUSE--
HE WAS A GOOD, UPSTANDING, NON-VAMPIRE. JUST LIKE YOURSELF. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

WHY, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THOSE VAMPIRES PUT A CURSE ON OLD RENFIELD'S DRIED-UP FRUIT CROPS!
YOU'RE THINKING OF WITCHES. THEY PUT CURSES ON THINGS.
THEN I BET THE VAMPIRES POISONED HIS CROPS...JUST LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS. IF THOSE VAMPIRES COME AFTER MY CROPS...
...ME AND THE BOYS HAVE NO PROBLEM STOPPING THEM...
...FOR GOOD.
I THINK VAMPIRES ARE ALREADY KINDA DEAD.
ISN'T THAT COOL, DAD? BEING MORTAL IS SO BORING.

I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON THEM. A GUY I KNOW WENT MISSING AFTER HELPING CONSTANTINE OUT WITH CASTLE REPAIRS.
COULD WE *NOT* SPEAK OF HIM?
NOT A FAN OF CONSTANTINE? WAIT, WASN'T IT HIM THAT--
DADDY, THAT'S ENOUGH NOW.
YEAH, HE HAD IT IN FOR YOUR FATHER. WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

I WOULDN'T KNOW.

DIDN'T HE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE?
I REALLY *DON'T* WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

WHAT WAS THAT RUMOR?

DADDY, PLEASE STOP.

OH YES, CONSTANTINE WAS--

ENOUGH!

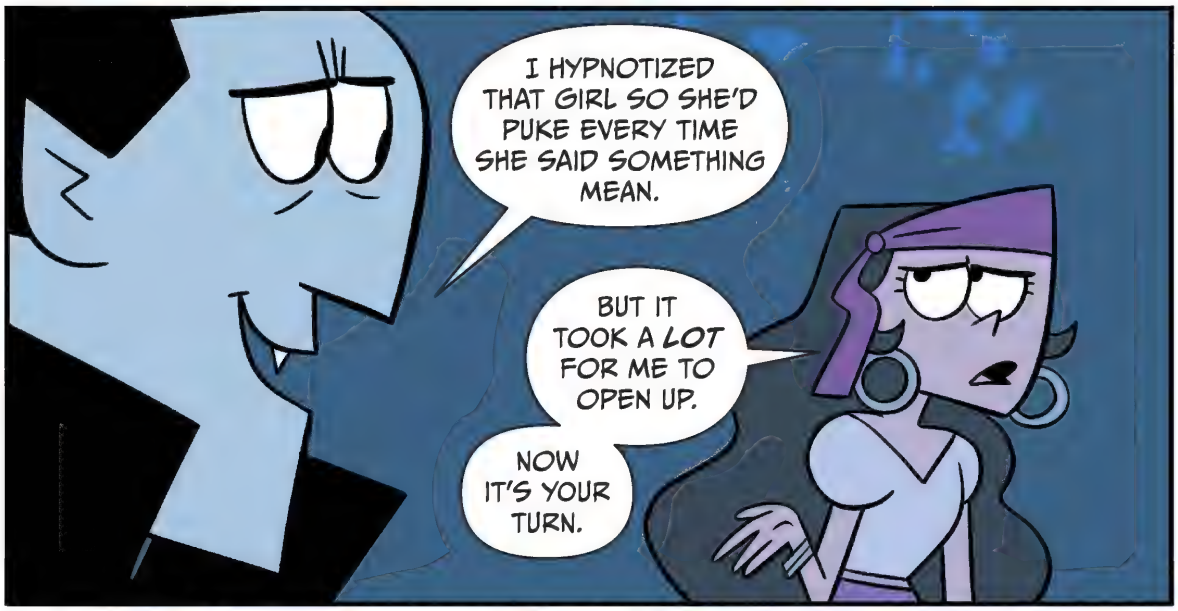
I'M SORRY. PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
DADDY, LOOK WHAT YOU DID.
ONLY A HUMAN WOULD GET THAT WORKED UP ABOUT CONSTANTINE. I KNEW DRACULA WASN'T NO VAMPIRE.

COUNTIE, WAIT FOR ME.
DON'T PULL THAT BAT STUFF ON ME. I'LL GET A BROOM, DIP IT IN GARLIC, AND WHACK YOU OUT OF THE SKY!
I DON'T WANT TO TALK.
IF YOU DON'T COME DOWN, I'LL TELL EVERYONE YOUR JELLY RECIPE IS CHEF JELEU'S.

BUT THAT WOULD BE LYING.
BUT IT GOT YOU BACK DOWN HERE.
JUST BREATHE DEEPLY AND WATCH THE MEDALLION.
DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT IT.
FINE.
THOUGH ONE DAY YOU NEED TO TEACH ME HOW YOU DO THAT.

IT'S TIME YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE.
IF YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME, THEN WHO ELSE?

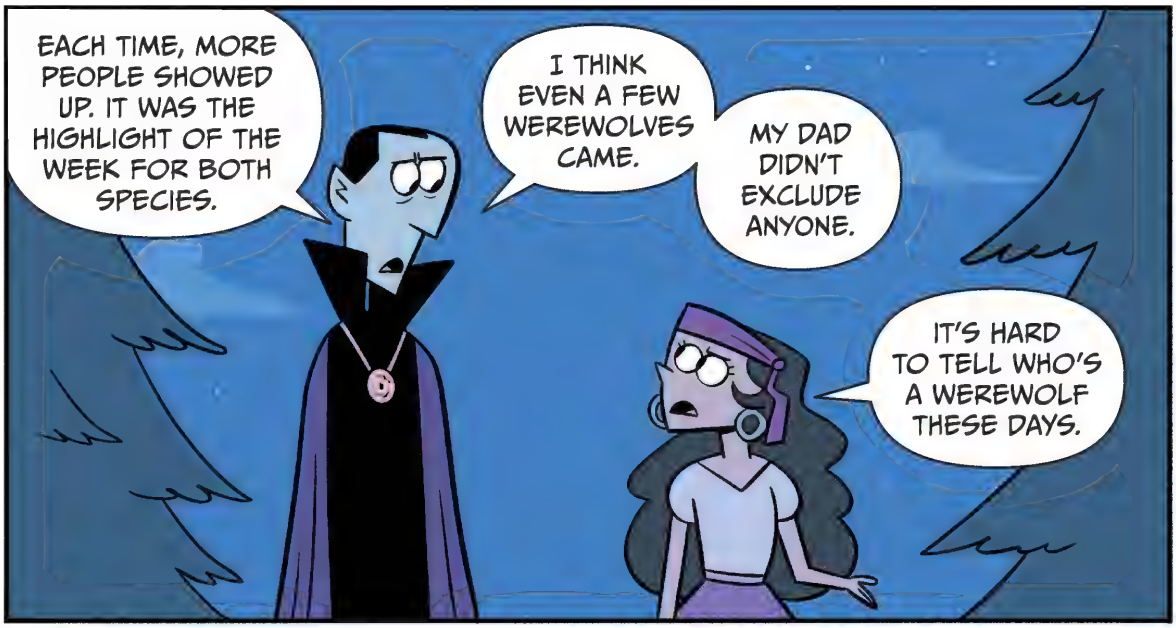
NOT NOW.
REMEMBER WHEN I OPENED UP TO YOU WHEN I WAS BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL?


I HYPNOTIZED THAT GIRL SO SHE'D PUKE EVERY TIME SHE SAID SOMETHING MEAN.
BUT IT TOOK A *LOT* FOR ME TO OPEN UP.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

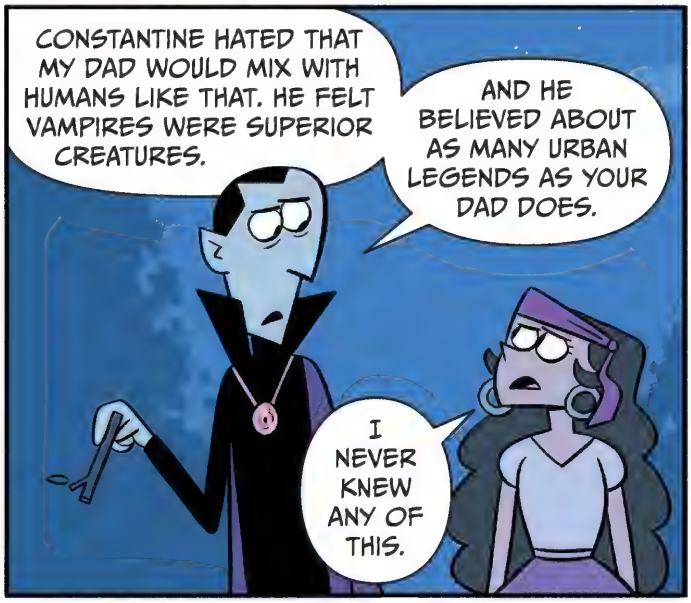
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.
WELL, START WITH WHAT CONSTANTINE HAS TO DO WITH IT.

CONSTANTINE ALWAYS MADE MY DAD'S LIFE DIFFICULT.

"YOU'RE NOT LOYAL ENOUGH TO VAMPIRES."
"YOU HANG OUT WITH TOO MANY HUMANS."
"YOUR MOTHER WAS A DAY-WALKER."
DAY-WALKER?
A VAMPIRE WHO WALKS IN THE DAYLIGHT WITHOUT BURNING UP. SOME SAY IT'S A HUMAN/VAMPIRE MIX.
I COULD BE A DAY-WALKER! I ALREADY HAVE THE DAYLIGHT STUFF DOWN.
IF I KNEW OF A WAY, DON'T YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU?
MY DAD IGNORED HIS NONSENSE FOR THE MOST PART. HE TRUSTED HUMANS, EVEN IF CONSTANTINE DIDN'T.
HUMANS AND VAMPIRES WERE CORDIAL, BUT NOT CLOSE AFTER THE HUNTS.
HE STARTED HIS *BRINNER* TO HELP BRING BOTH SPECIES TOGETHER.
BRINNER? IS THAT SOME CREEPY VAMPIRE THING?
IT'S BREAKFAST FOR DINNER.
OH.
WORD SPREAD ABOUT THE PARTY.

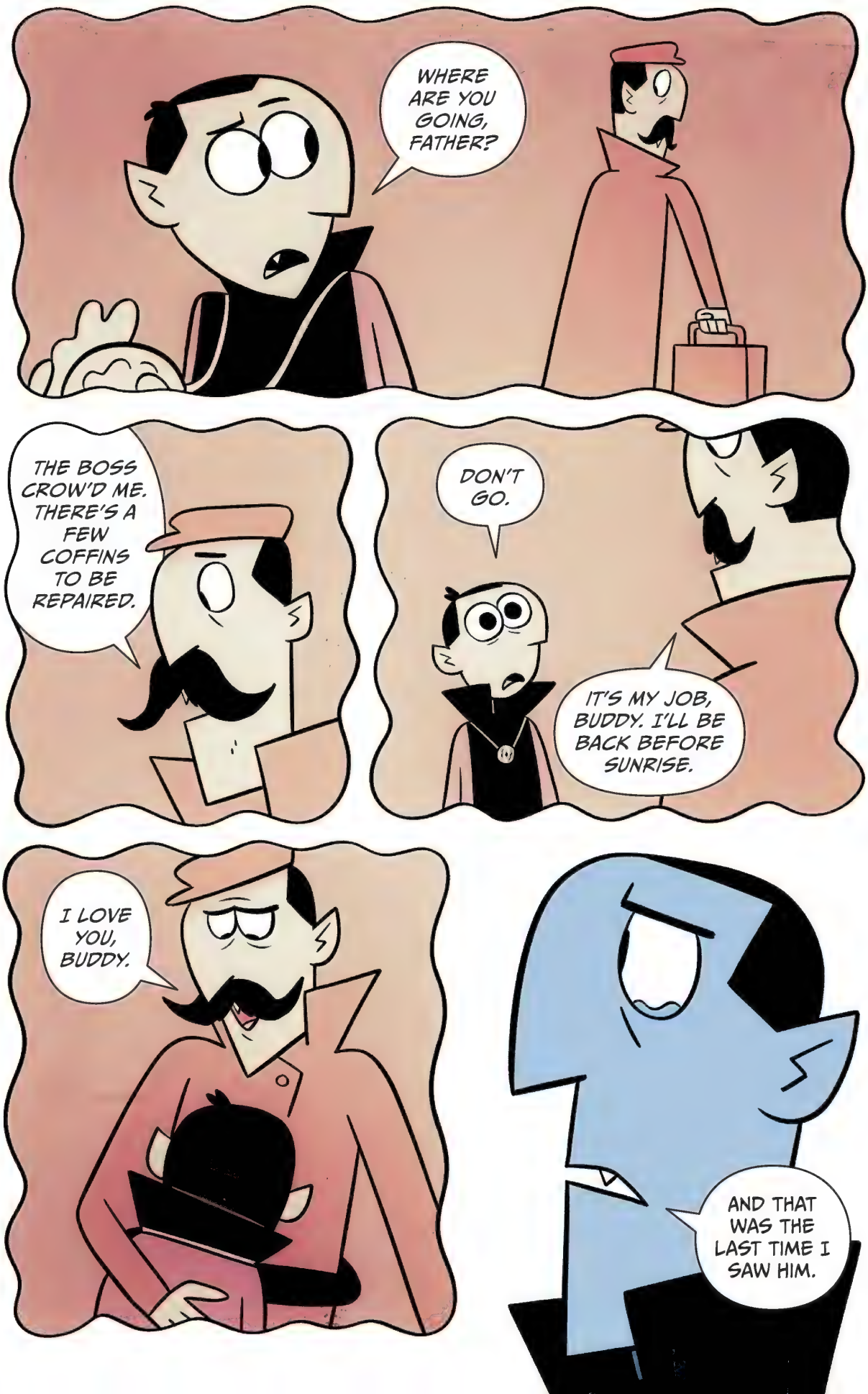

EACH TIME, MORE PEOPLE SHOWED UP. IT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK FOR BOTH SPECIES.
I THINK EVEN A FEW WEREWOLVES CAME.
MY DAD DIDN'T EXCLUDE ANYONE.
IT'S HARD TO TELL WHO'S A WEREWOLF THESE DAYS.

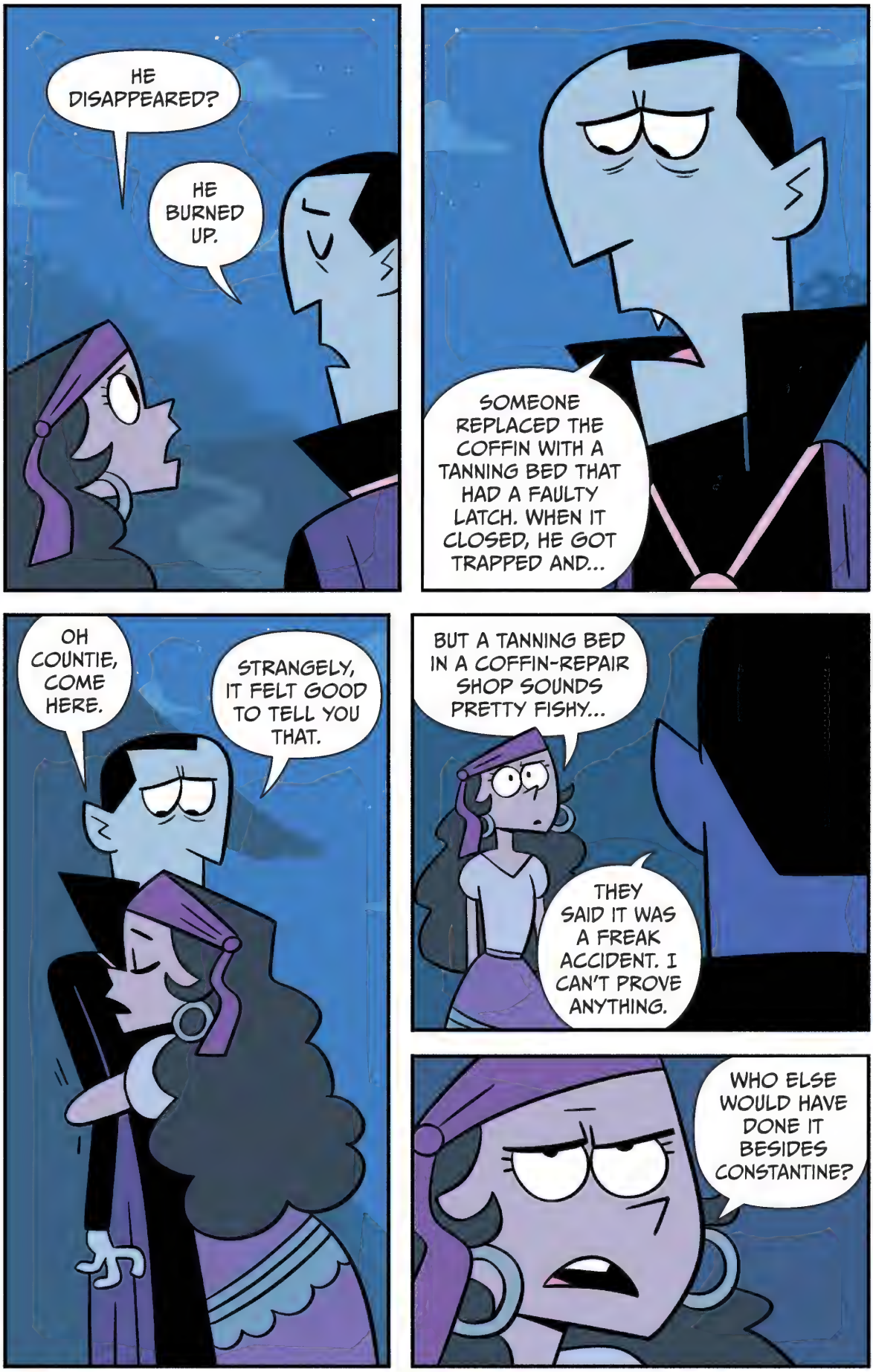
I'VE FOUND THAT IF YOU JUST THROW A STICK, WEREWOLVES--EVEN IN HUMAN FORM--HAVE A HARD TIME NOT FETCHING IT.

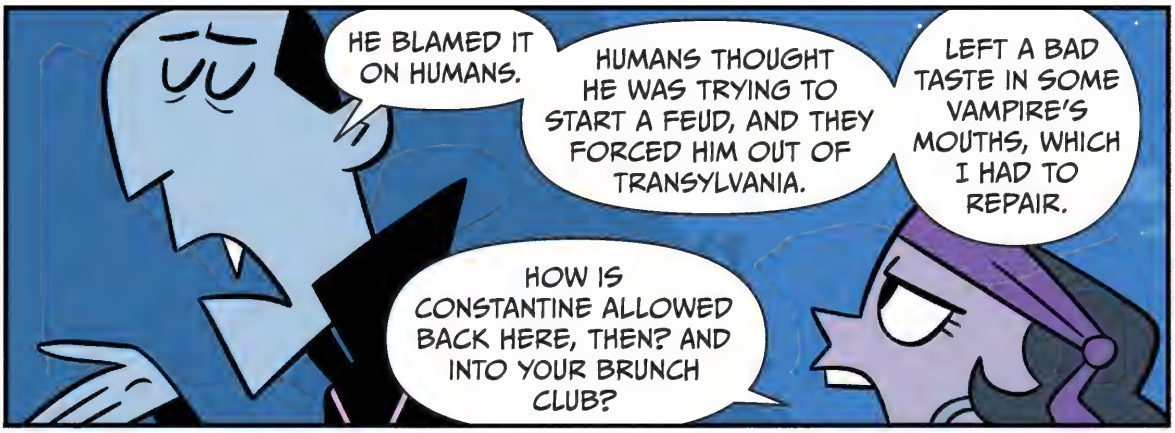

CONSTANTINE HATED THAT MY DAD WOULD MIX WITH HUMANS LIKE THAT. HE FELT VAMPIRES WERE SUPERIOR CREATURES.
AND HE BELIEVED ABOUT AS MANY URBAN LEGENDS AS YOUR DAD DOES.
I NEVER KNEW ANY OF THIS.

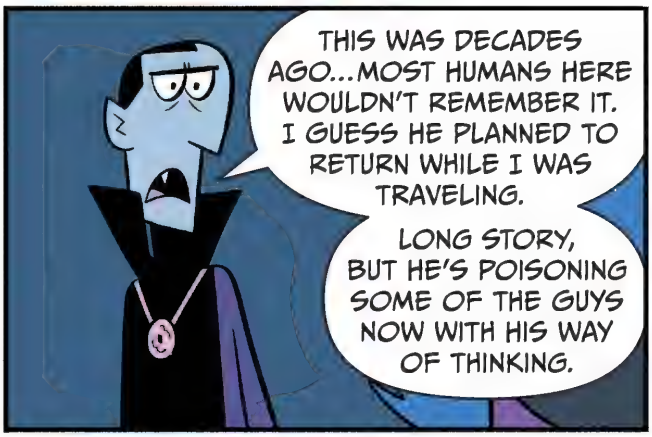
AND THEN, AFTER THE BRINNER ENDED...

AND THEN...HE... UMM...
YOU CAN TELL ME.


WHERE ARE YOU GOING, FATHER?
THE BOSS CROW'D ME. THERE'S A FEW COFFINS TO BE REPAIRED.
DON'T GO.
IT'S MY JOB, BUDDY. I'LL BE BACK BEFORE SUNRISE.
I LOVE YOU, BUDDY.
AND THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM.

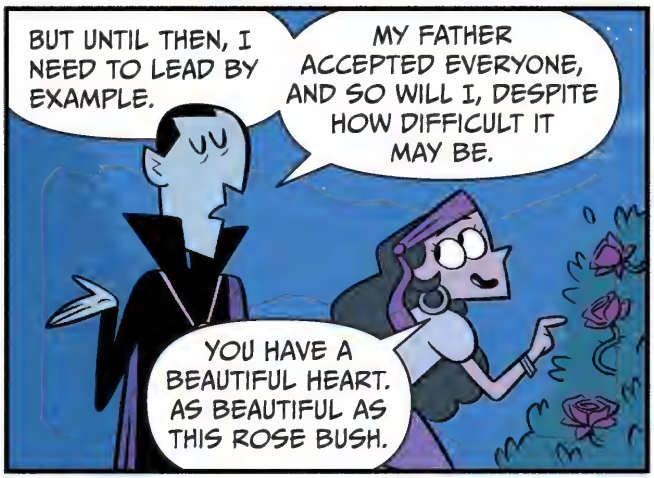

HE DISAPPEARED?
HE BURNED UP.
SOMEONE REPLACED THE COFFIN WITH A TANNING BED THAT HAD A FAULTY LATCH. WHEN IT CLOSED, HE GOT TRAPPED AND...
OH COUNTIE, COME HERE.
STRANGELY, IT FELT GOOD TO TELL YOU THAT.
BUT A TANNING BED IN A COFFIN-REPAIR SHOP SOUNDS PRETTY FISHY...
THEY SAID IT WAS A FREAK ACCIDENT. I CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING.
WHO ELSE WOULD HAVE DONE IT BESIDES CONSTANTINE?

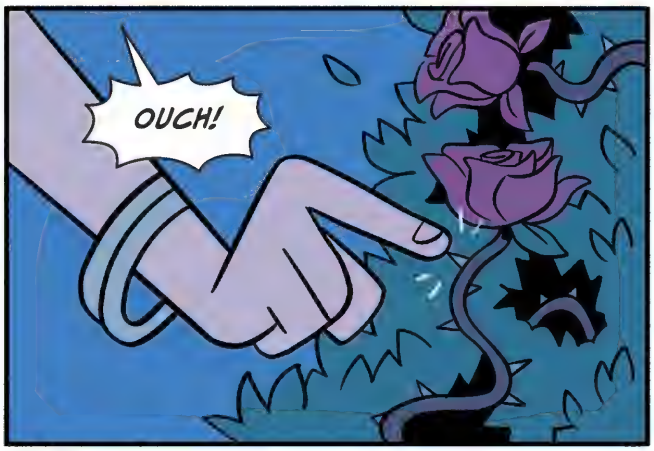

HE BLAMED IT ON HUMANS.
HUMANS THOUGHT HE WAS TRYING TO START A FEUD, AND THEY FORCED HIM OUT OF TRANSYLVANIA.
LEFT A BAD TASTE IN SOME VAMPIRE'S MOUTHS, WHICH I HAD TO REPAIR.
HOW IS CONSTANTINE ALLOWED BACK HERE, THEN? AND INTO YOUR BRUNCH CLUB?


THIS WAS DECADES AGO...MOST HUMANS HERE WOULDN'T REMEMBER IT. I GUESS HE PLANNED TO RETURN WHILE I WAS TRAVELING.
LONG STORY, BUT HE'S POISONING SOME OF THE GUYS NOW WITH HIS WAY OF THINKING.

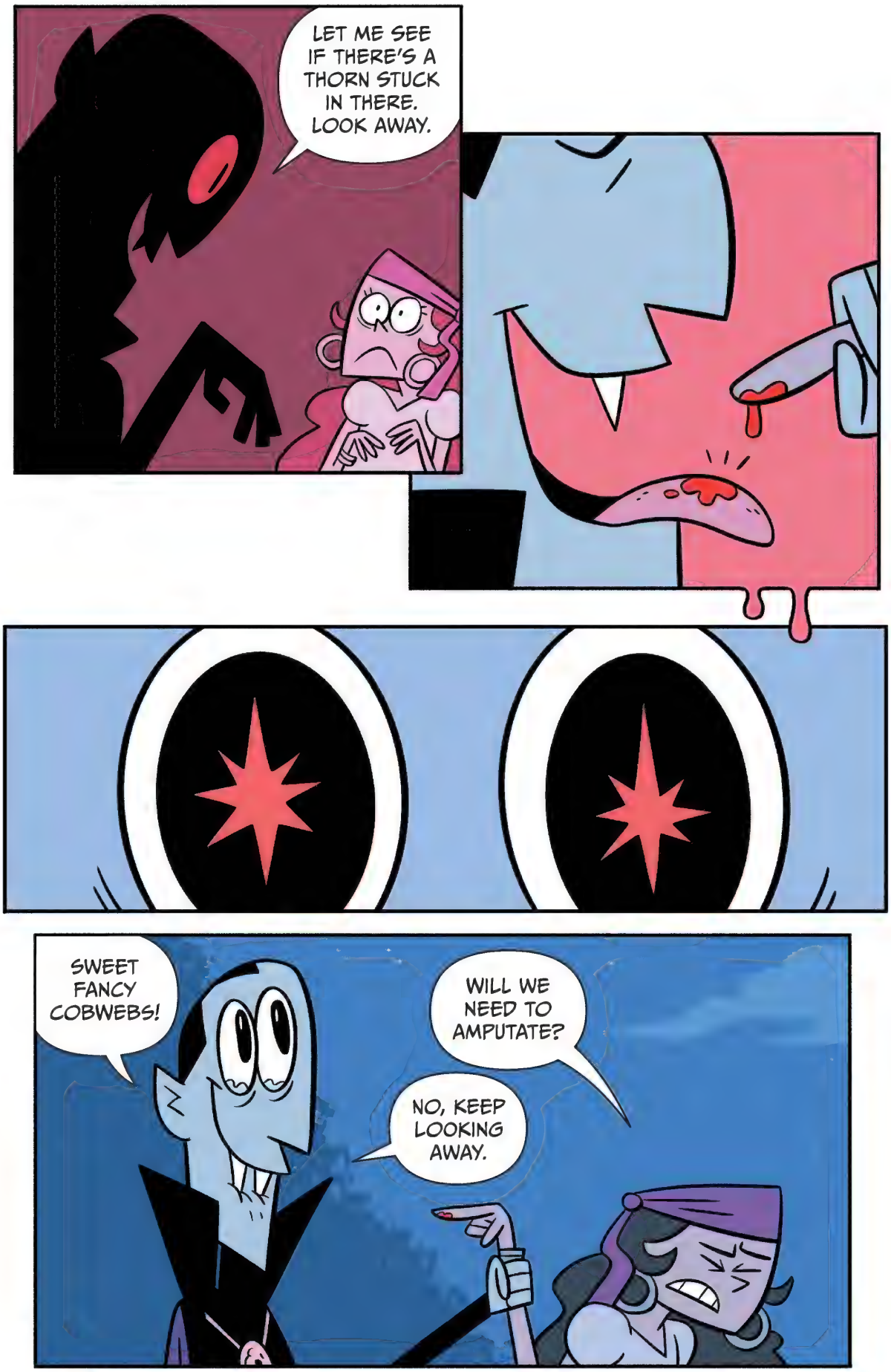
YOU HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE!

IT'S NOT SO EASY NOW THAT HE HAS HIS GRIP ON THE NEW MEMBERS.
I'LL NEED TO BE MORE DEVIOUS THAN HIM IF I WANT HIM OUT.
DISCIPLINE DUNGEON KIND OF THINKING.

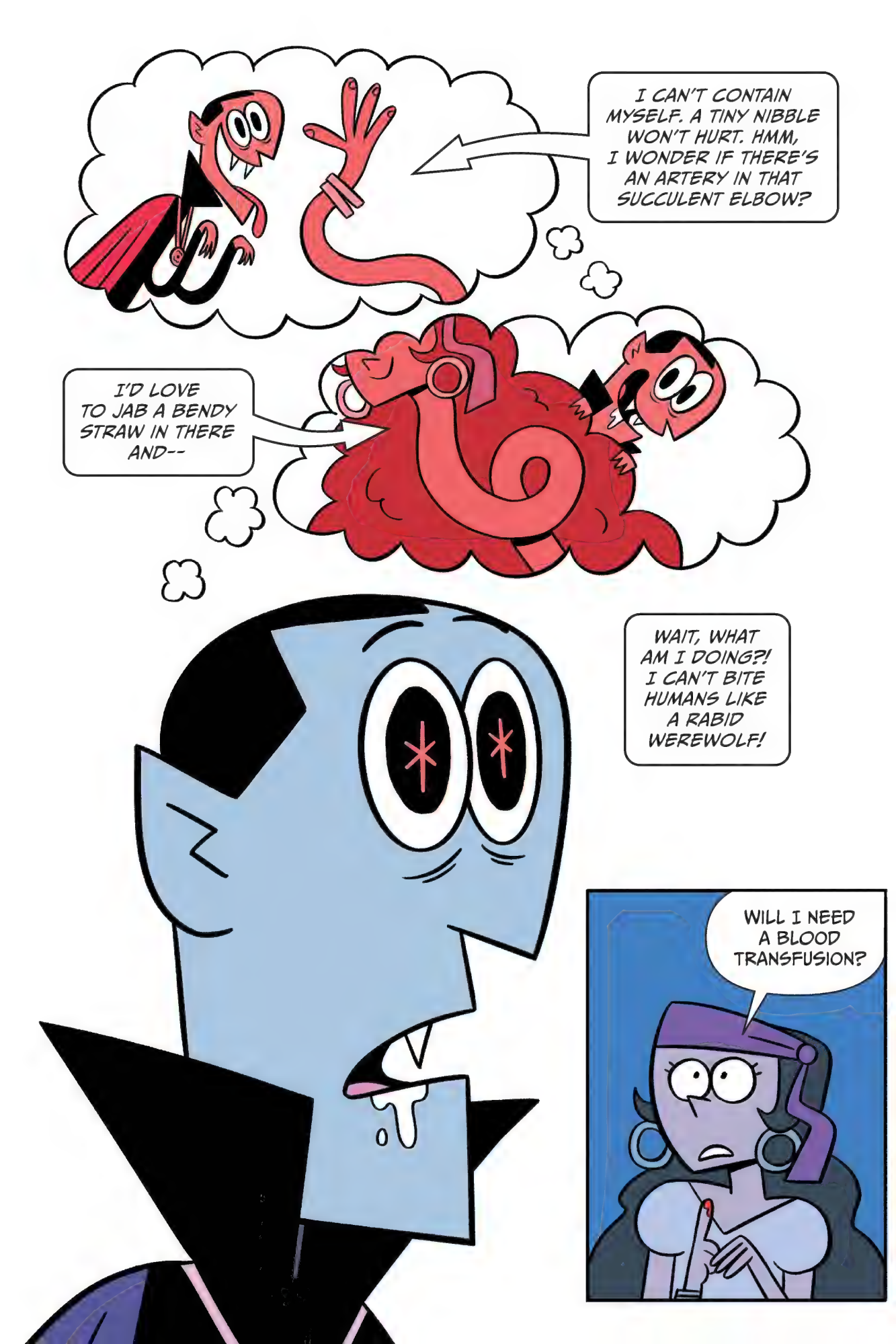

BUT UNTIL THEN, I NEED TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE.
MY FATHER ACCEPTED EVERYONE, AND SO WILL I, DESPITE HOW DIFFICULT IT MAY BE.
YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HEART. AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS ROSE BUSH.


OUCH!

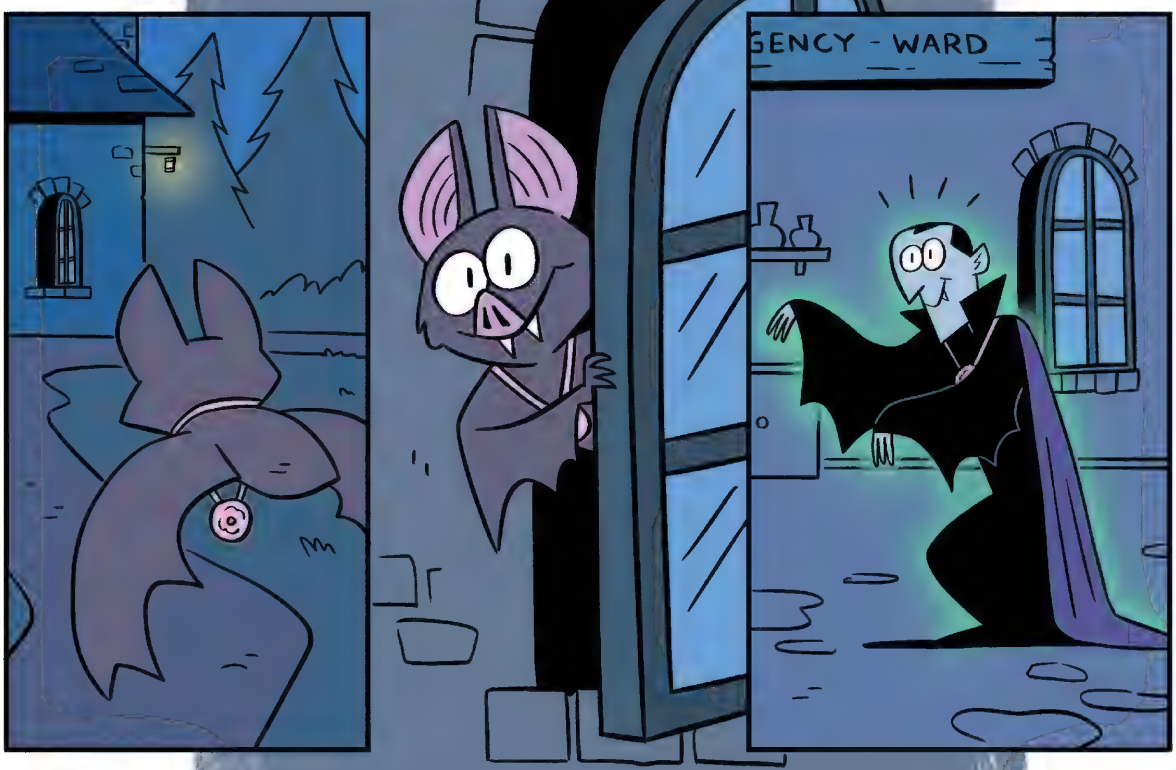
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
IS IT BAD?
I HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH A RICH, RED COLOR SINCE...
WILL I NEED STITCHES?
IT HAS THE SAME TEXTURE AS JELLY.
YOU'RE CRAZY. IT'S BLOOD. LESS STARING AND MORE HELPING.
THIS IS THE CLOSEST THING I'VE SEEN TO JELLY IN DAYS. AM I GOING CRAZY?


LET ME SEE IF THERE'S A THORN STUCK IN THERE. LOOK AWAY.
SWEET FANCY COBWEBS!
WILL WE NEED TO AMPUTATE?
NO, KEEP LOOKING AWAY.

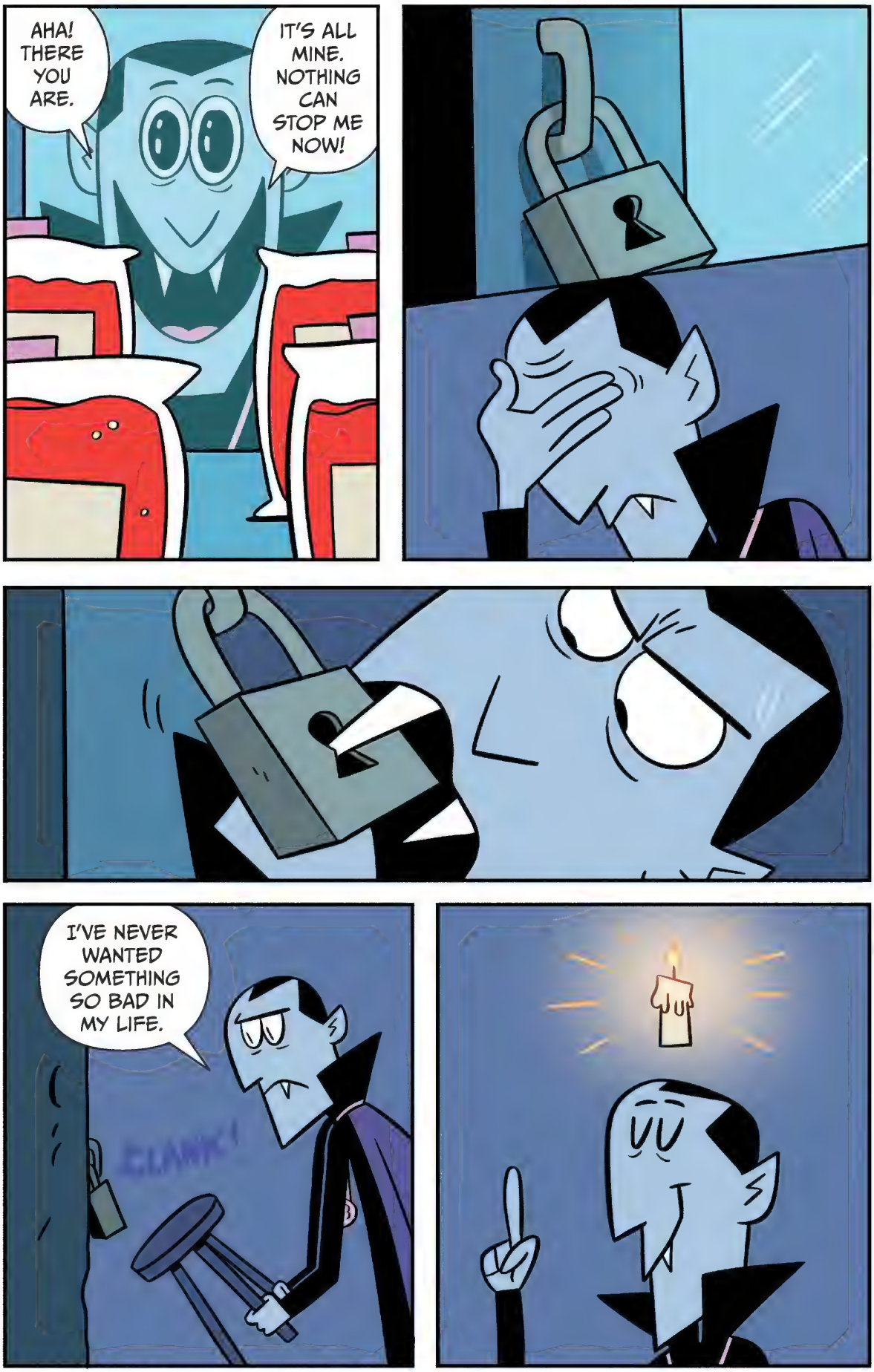
IT'S SWEET, BUT WITH A HINT OF METAL...
...LIKE A SUGAR-COATED CHAIN-LINK FENCE.
THUMP
THUMP
IS THE THORN GONE?
I HAVE TO CHECK YOUR OTHER FINGERS, TOO. CLOSE YOUR EYES.
THIS BLOOD GIVES ME MORE ENERGY THAN JELLY EVER DID.


I CAN'T CONTAIN MYSELF. A TINY NIBBLE WON'T HURT. HMM, I WONDER IF THERE'S AN ARTERY IN THAT SUCCULENT ELBOW?
I'D LOVE TO JAB A BENDY STRAW IN THERE AND--
WAIT, WHAT AM I DOING?! I CAN'T BITE HUMANS LIKE A RABID WEREWOLF!
WILL I NEED A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

GENIUS IDEA, ELENA.
HUH?
I BETTER GO.
VERY BUSY.
NIGHTLY CHORES AND SUCH.
GREAT DINNER.
TELL YOUR FOLKS I SAID THANKS.
OH, ALL IT NEEDS IS A TINY BAND-AID.


GENCY - WARD

IF I WERE BLOOD, WHERE WOULD I BE?
GASP


AHA! THERE YOU ARE.
IT'S ALL MINE. NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
I'VE NEVER WANTED SOMETHING SO BAD IN MY LIFE.
CLANK!

FINALLY!
GREAT FOR EMERGENCIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Eleven minutes later.
I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALIVE!
WHICH IS ODD, BECAUSE I'M TECHNICALLY NOT ALIVE.

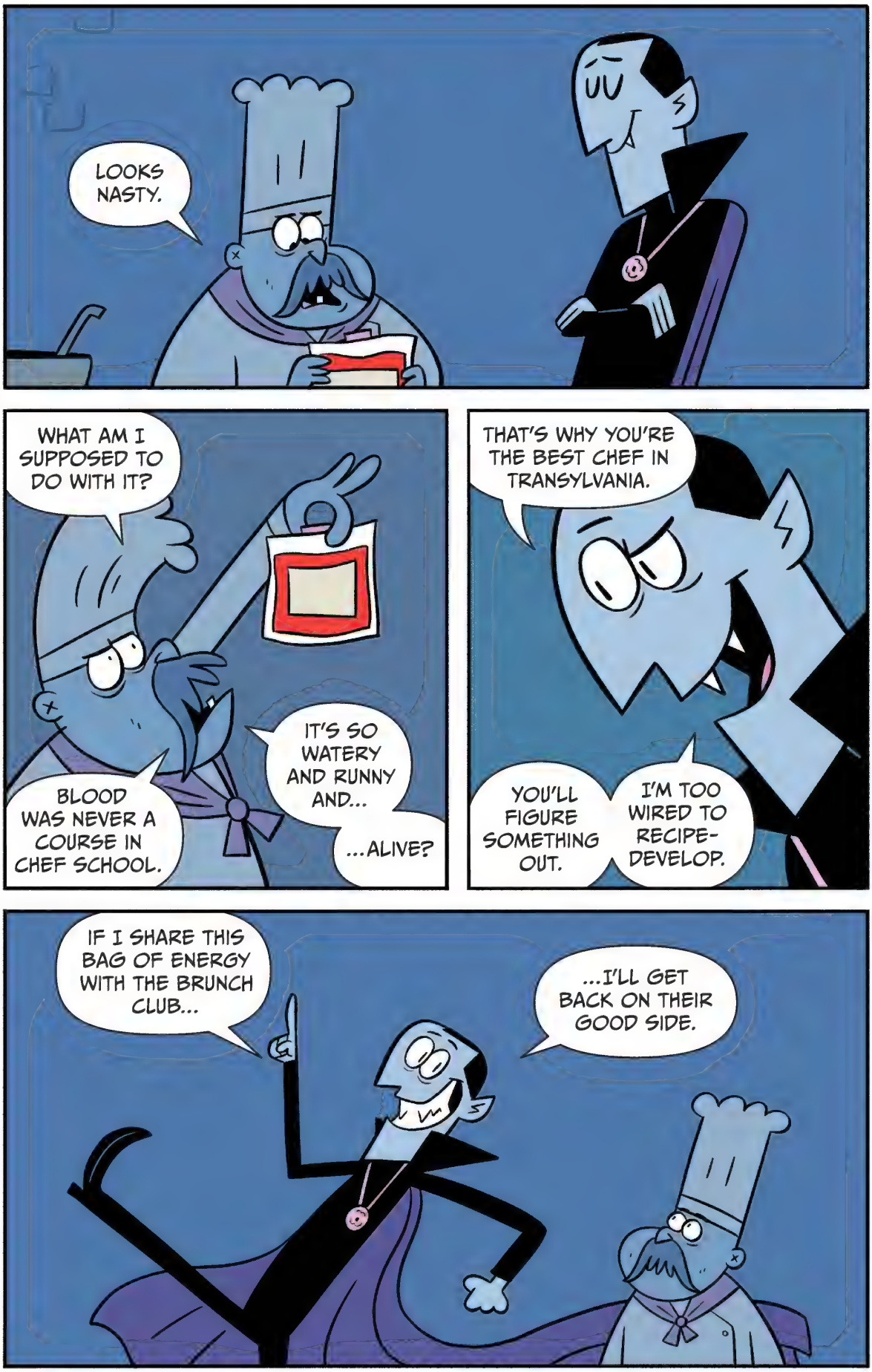
CHEF!

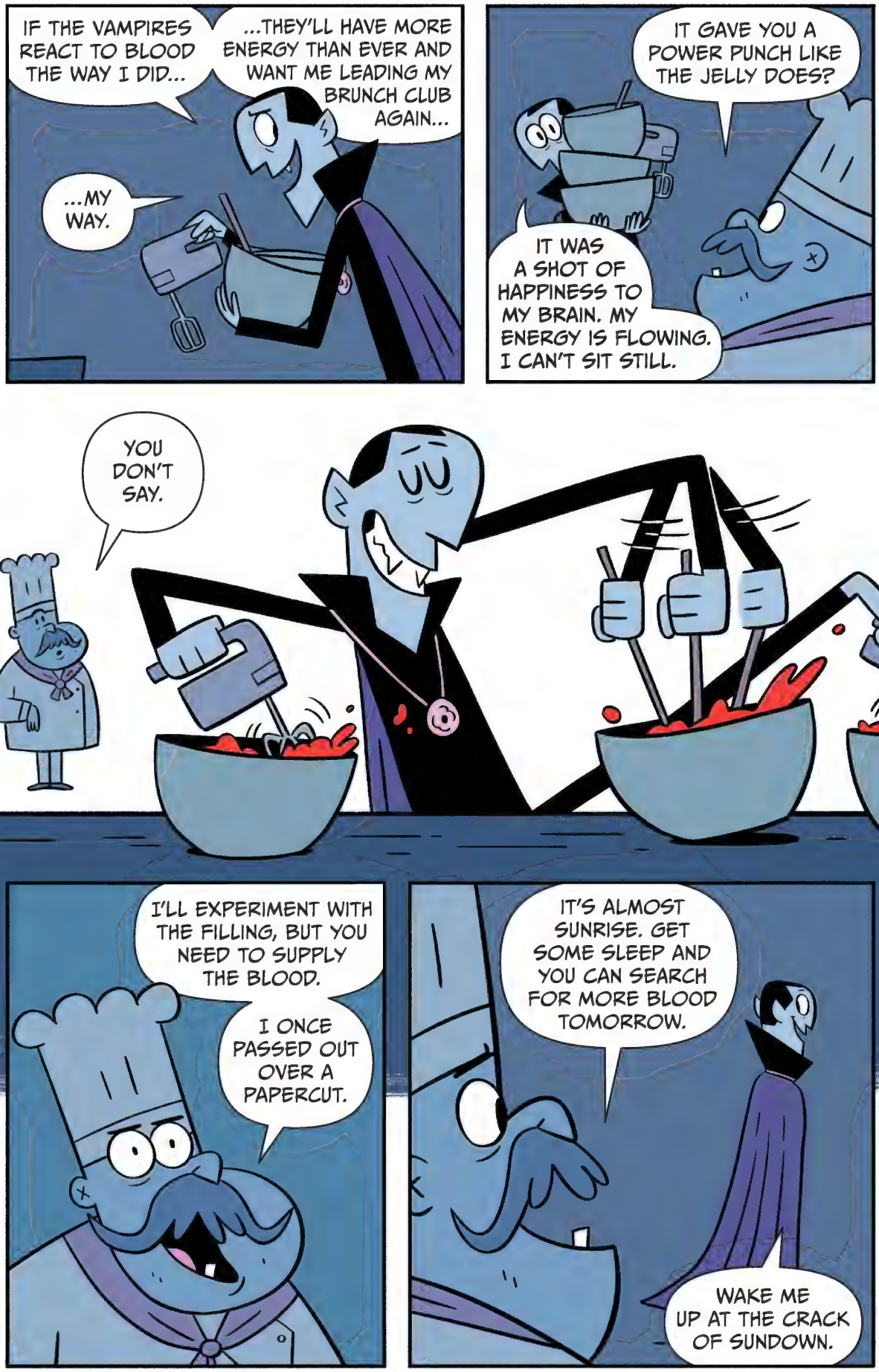
CHEF! I HAVE IT.
YOUR SANITY?
THE SOLUTION TO OUR JELLY PROBLEM.

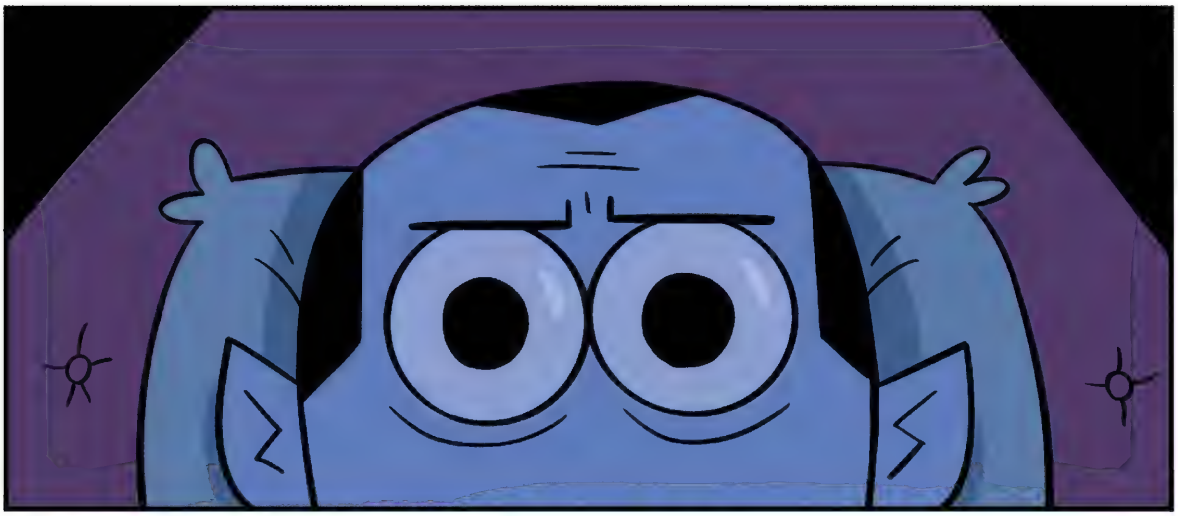
YOU FOUND A CASE OF BLOOD ORANGES?
EVEN BETTER.

ARE YOU POSITIVE?
YES! I'M A POSITIVE, B POSITIVE, AND EVEN O POSITIVE.
SAY WHAT?!

BLOOD, CHEF. BLOOD!


LOOKS NASTY.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH IT?
BLOOD WAS NEVER A COURSE IN CHEF SCHOOL.
IT'S SO WATERY AND RUNNY AND...
...ALIVE?
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE BEST CHEF IN TRANSYLVANIA.
YOU'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
I'M TOO WIRED TO RECIPE-DEVELOP.
IF I SHARE THIS BAG OF ENERGY WITH THE BRUNCH CLUB...
...I'LL GET BACK ON THEIR GOOD SIDE.


IF THE VAMPIRES REACT TO BLOOD THE WAY I DID...
...THEY'LL HAVE MORE ENERGY THAN EVER AND WANT ME LEADING MY BRUNCH CLUB AGAIN...
...MY WAY.
IT GAVE YOU A POWER PUNCH LIKE THE JELLY DOES?
IT WAS A SHOT OF HAPPINESS TO MY BRAIN. MY ENERGY IS FLOWING. I CAN'T SIT STILL.
YOU DON'T SAY.
I'LL EXPERIMENT WITH THE FILLING, BUT YOU NEED TO SUPPLY THE BLOOD.
I ONCE PASSED OUT OVER A PAPERCUT.
IT'S ALMOST SUNRISE. GET SOME SLEEP AND YOU CAN SEARCH FOR MORE BLOOD TOMORROW.
WAKE ME UP AT THE CRACK OF SUNDOWN.



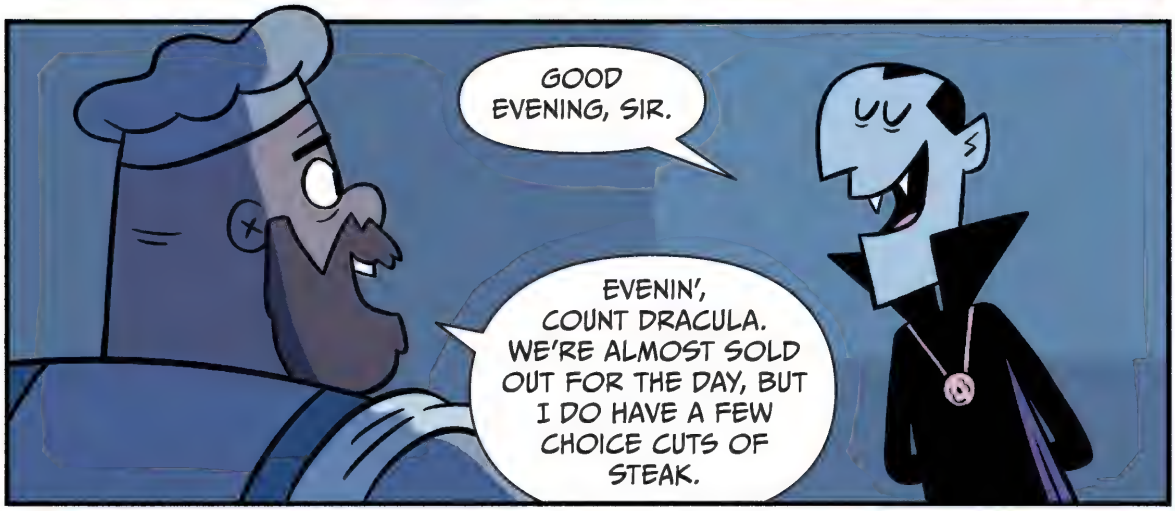
Eight hours later.

MASTER, I WAS JUST COMING TO WAKE YOU.

NO TIME FOR THAT. I'VE ALREADY SHOWERED, ATE, AND FLOSSED MY FANGS.

IT'S BLOOD-HUNTING TIME!

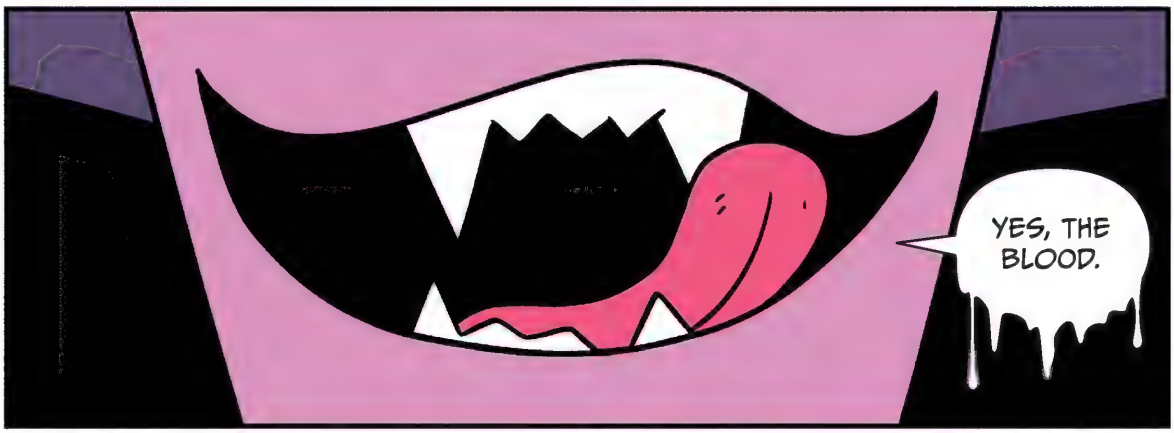
Butcher
OPEN
AM - 8PM
ECIAL
AMPIRE HOURS
8PM - 1AM


GOOD EVENING, SIR.
EVENIN', COUNT DRACULA. WE'RE ALMOST SOLD OUT FOR THE DAY, BUT I DO HAVE A FEW CHOICE CUTS OF STEAK.

ACTUALLY, I'M INQUIRING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
AIN'T GOT JELLY, IF YOU'RE FIXING FOR THAT.

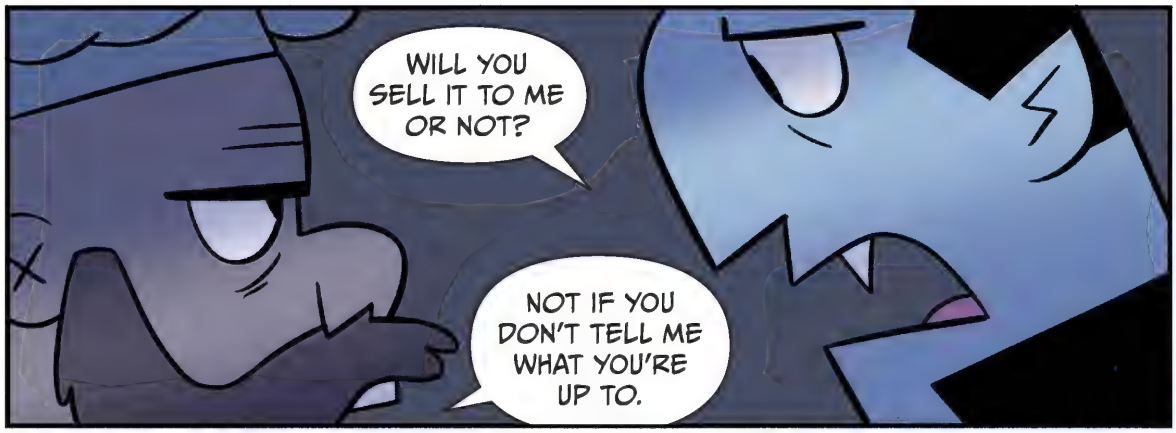
NO, NO.
I'M CURIOUS WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BLOOD AFTER YOU BUTCHER ANIMALS?

WE TOSS IT.
COULD I OFFER TO TAKE IT OFF YOUR HANDS?
THE BLOOD?

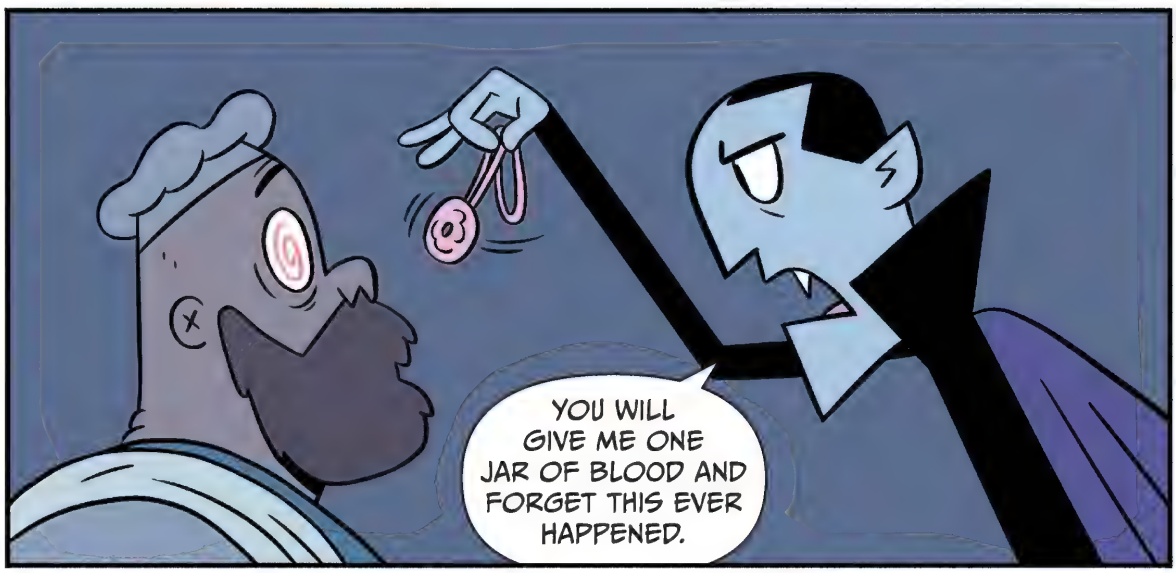

YES, THE BLOOD.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN YOUR WORLD, BUT IF THIS IS SOME WEIRD KIND OF VAMPIRE SACRIFICE THING...
...I AIN'T WANT NO PART OF THAT.
I'M WORKING ON A SECRET PROJECT. I'D GLADLY PAY YOU FOR IT.

AIN'T NO SECRETS IN THIS HERE SHOP.

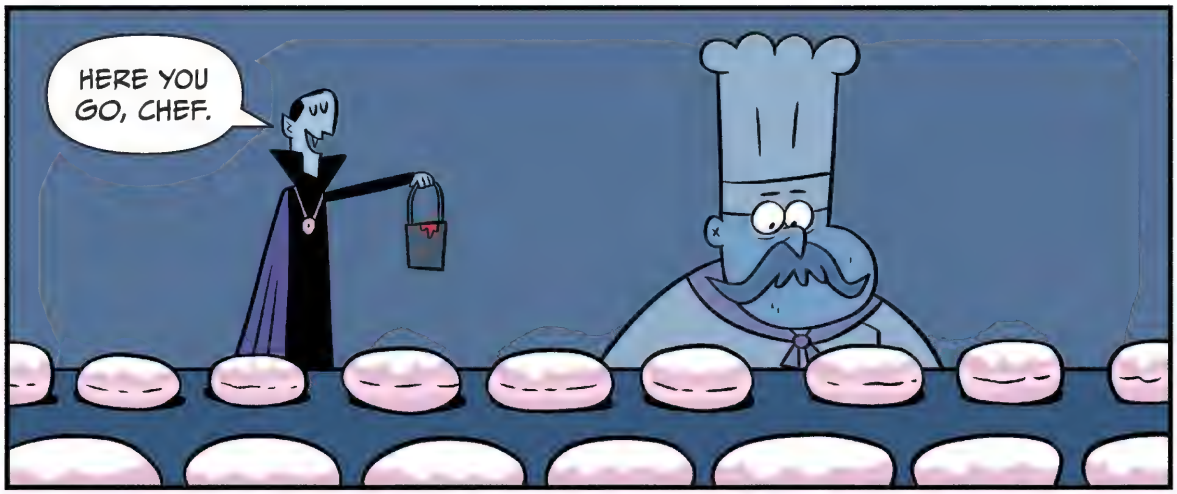

WILL YOU SELL IT TO ME OR NOT?
NOT IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE UP TO.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU'SE WEREN'T CREEPY LIKE THE VAMPIRES THE FARMERS TALK ABOUT.
THAT'S WHY ME AND THE FOLKS ON THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED YER STATUE DOWNTOWN.
NOW GET LOST BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND 'BOUT YOU.


YOU WILL GIVE ME ONE JAR OF BLOOD AND FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED.

PSSST.
WHO SAID THAT?
IT'S ME, VLAD. COME HERE.
WHY ARE YOU HIDING?
I DON'T WANT THE VAMPIRES TO KNOW I'M TALKING TO YOU.
BECAUSE OF A FRUIT AND JELLY SHORTAGE, I'M NOW A WALKING PLAGUE?

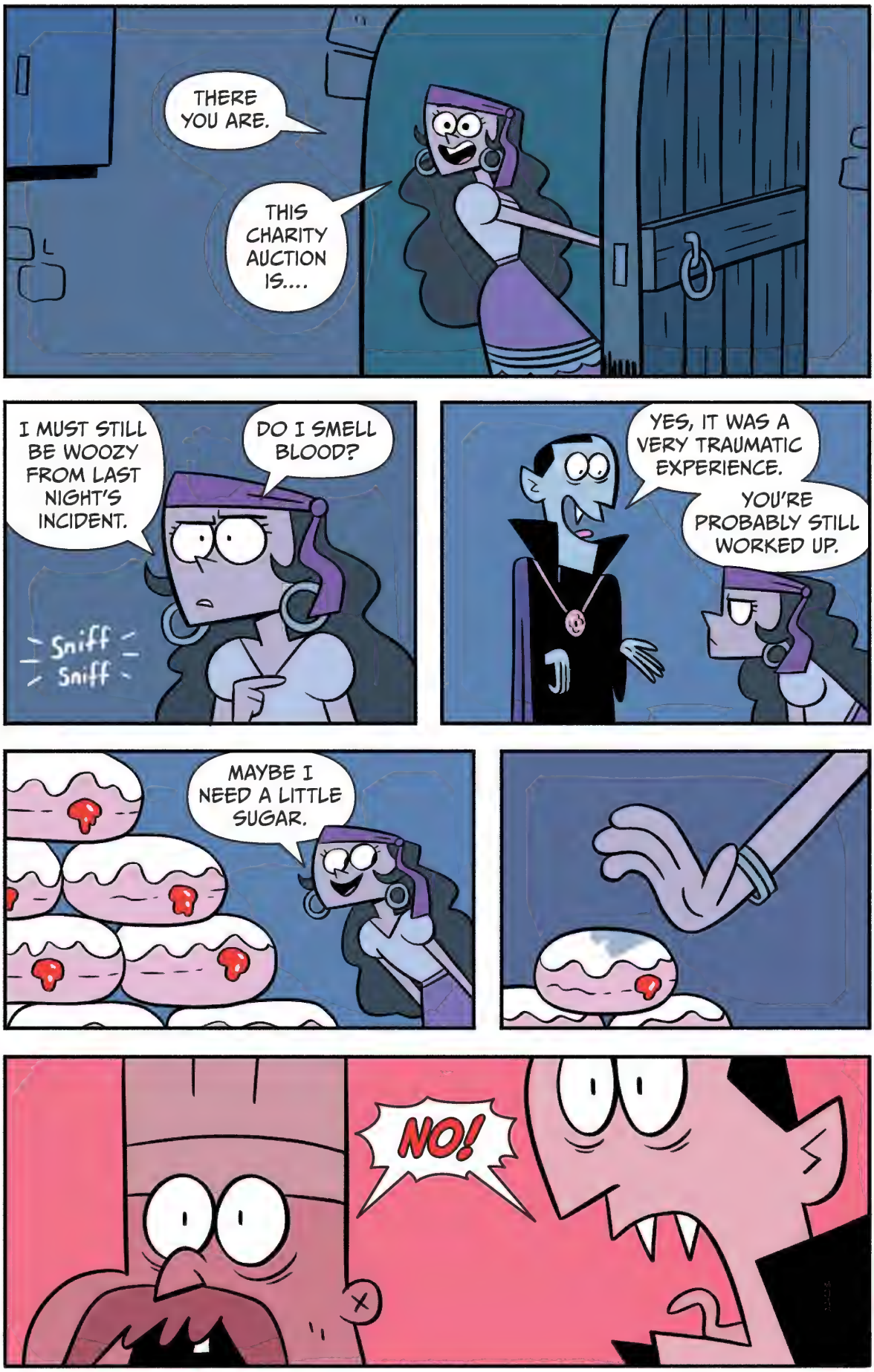
CONSTANTINE KNOWS THIS IS HIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHUT YOU OUT.
YOU ATTENDING THAT HUMAN CHARITY AUCTION IS THE NAIL IN YOUR OVERSTUFFED QUEEN-SIZE COFFIN.
THAT'S INSANITY.
GOING TO AN AUCTION WON'T MAKE ME LESS OF A VAMPIRE.
HE FLEW TO EVERY-ONE'S CASTLE ASKING US TO SIGN A PETITION TO HAVE YOUR STATUE REMOVED.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE GETS THE ENERGY.
REMOVED? ON WHAT GROUNDS?
THAT YOUR CHEF WAS THE TRUE GENIUS BEHIND YOUR JELLY DONUTS.
HE MUST THINK THAT IF THE STATUE IS REMOVED, HUMANS WILL DISTRUST YOU, TOO.
HE WOULDN'T DARE...
THREE QUARTERS OF THE BRUNCH CLUB SIGNED!
EVERYONE'S SO WIPED OUT, THEY CAN'T THINK FOR THEMSELVES ANYMORE.
HE WOULDN'T STOOP TO THIS LEVEL UNLESS HE FELT EXTRA THREATENED BY YOU...
...SAY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE UNDER YOUR CAPE?
OH, JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYONE'S MINDS.
I CAN'T WAIT. YOU KNOW I'M ON YOUR SIDE, DRACULA.

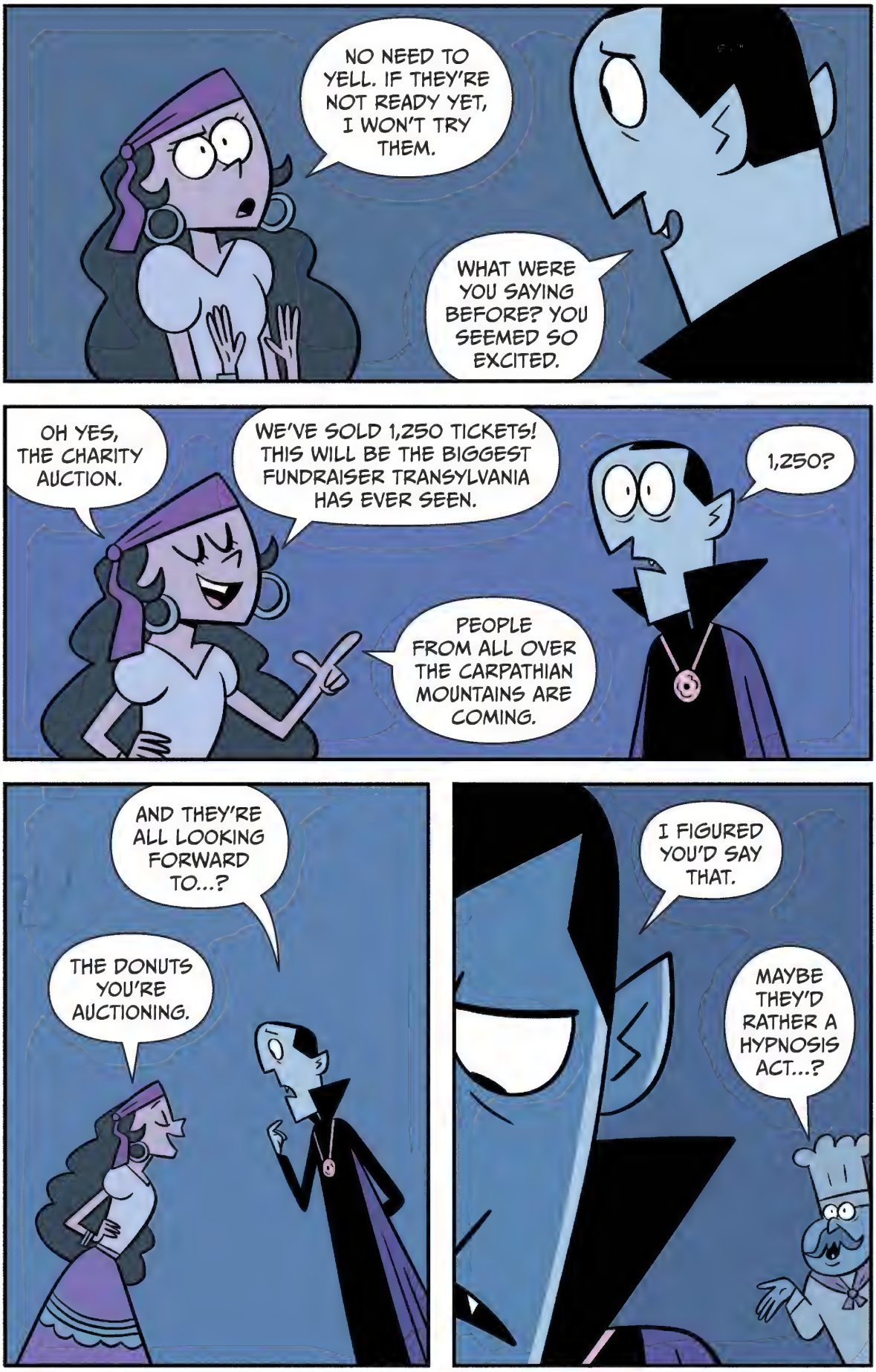

HERE YOU GO, CHEF.

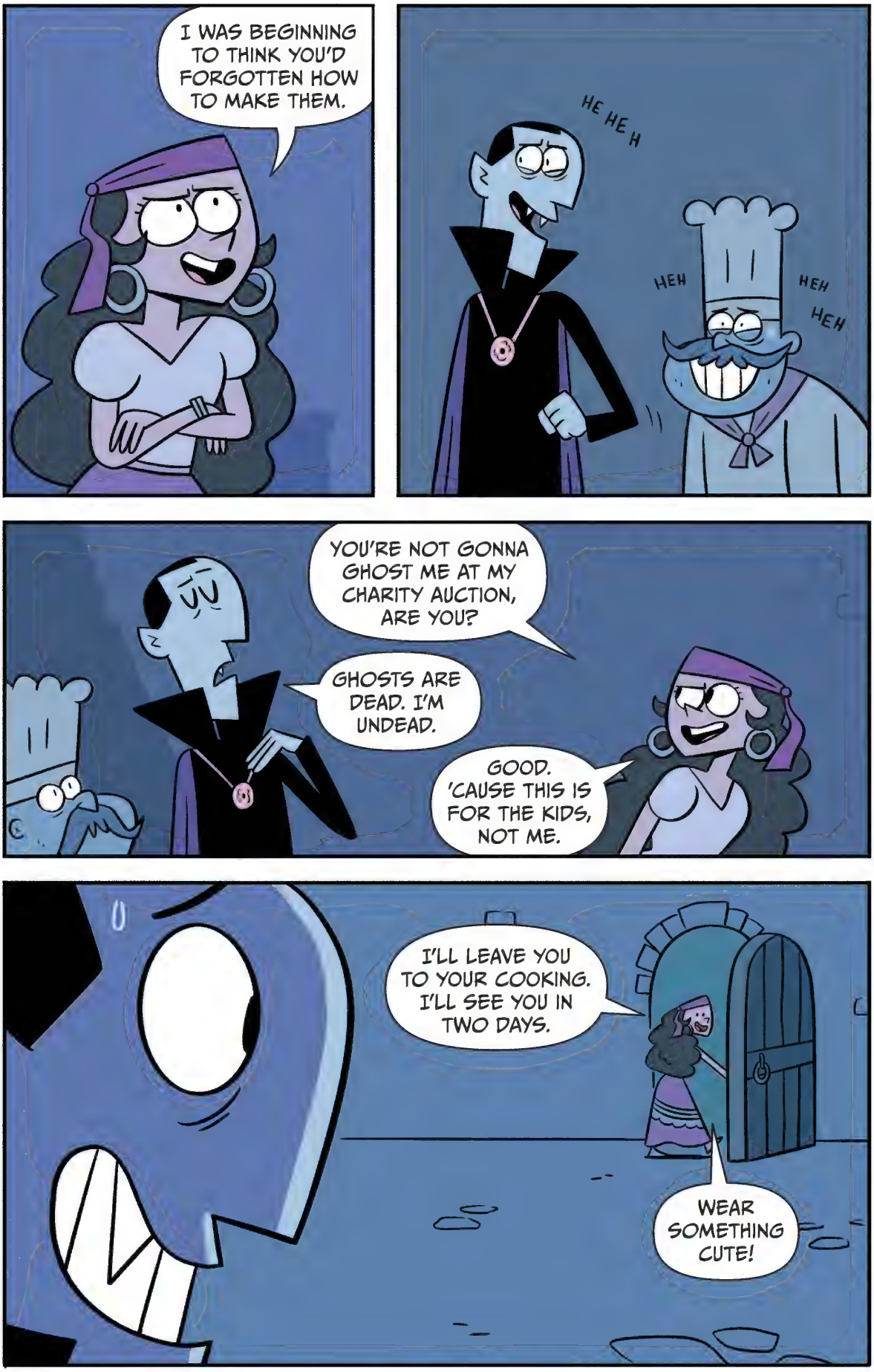
ALL RIGHT, I'LL COOK IT DOWN TO JELLY AND ADD SUGAR AND SPICES.
BUT YOU'RE ON TASTE-TESTING DUTY.

IF THIS WORKS, I'LL NEED TO FIND SOME MORE.
I FOUND A DEAD RAT IN THE CELLAR, IF YOU WANT *HIS* BLOOD.

A few minutes later...
I THINK IT'S WORKING.
I'LL THROW THIS INTO A PIPING BAG AND FILL SOME DONUTS.
COUNTIE, YOU IN HERE?
QUICK, HIDE THAT!
WE'RE IN THE KITCHEN, ELENA!

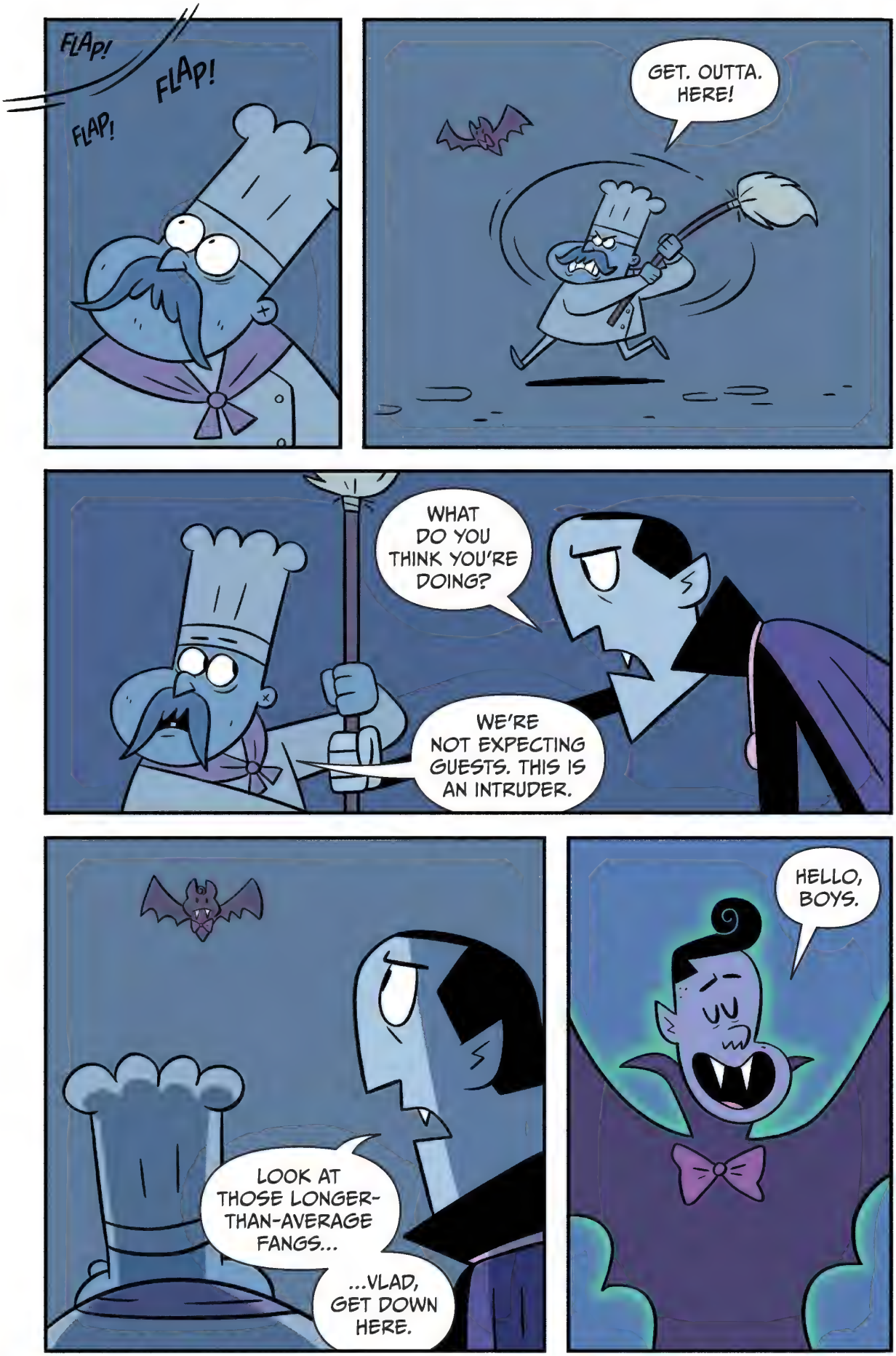

THERE YOU ARE.
THIS CHARITY AUCTION IS....
I MUST STILL BE WOOZY FROM LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENT.
DO I SMELL BLOOD?
Sniff Sniff
YES, IT WAS A VERY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE.
YOU'RE PROBABLY STILL WORKED UP.
MAYBE I NEED A LITTLE SUGAR.
NO!


NO NEED TO YELL. IF THEY'RE NOT READY YET, I WON'T TRY THEM.
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING BEFORE? YOU SEEMED SO EXCITED.
OH YES, THE CHARITY AUCTION.
WE'VE SOLD 1,250 TICKETS! THIS WILL BE THE BIGGEST FUNDRAISER TRANSYLVANIA HAS EVER SEEN.
1,250?
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS ARE COMING.
AND THEY'RE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO...?
THE DONUTS YOU'RE AUCTIONING.
I FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT.
MAYBE THEY'D RATHER A HYPNOSIS ACT...?

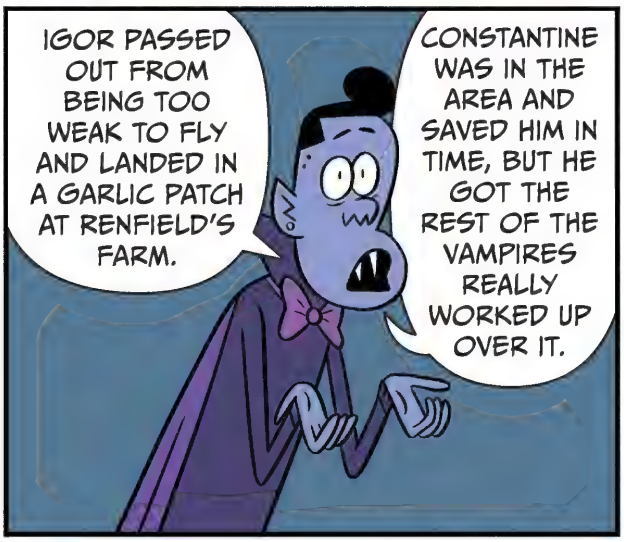

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D FORGOTTEN HOW TO MAKE THEM.
HE HE H
HEH
HEH
HEH
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GHOST ME AT MY CHARITY AUCTION, ARE YOU?
GHOSTS ARE DEAD. I'M UNDEAD.
GOOD. 'CAUSE THIS IS FOR THE KIDS, NOT ME.
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR COOKING. I'LL SEE YOU IN TWO DAYS.
WEAR SOMETHING CUTE!

YOU SHOULD TELL ELENA THE TRUTH.
YOU HEARD HER.
SHE'LL KILL ME, EVEN THOUGH I'M ALREADY DEAD. AND IF I'M *DEAD*-DEAD, THEN YOU'RE DEADER.
SO KEEP COOKING.
TRY THIS. SEE WHAT YOU THINK.
CHEF!!

THESE.
ARE.
AMAZING!
I CALL THEM... BLOODVARIAN CREAM DONUTS.
SO VELVETY AND DELIGHTFUL!


FLAP!
FLAP!
FLAP!
GET. OUTTA. HERE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WE'RE NOT EXPECTING GUESTS. THIS IS AN INTRUDER.
LOOK AT THOSE LONGER-THAN-AVERAGE FANGS...
...VLAD, GET DOWN HERE.
HELLO, BOYS.

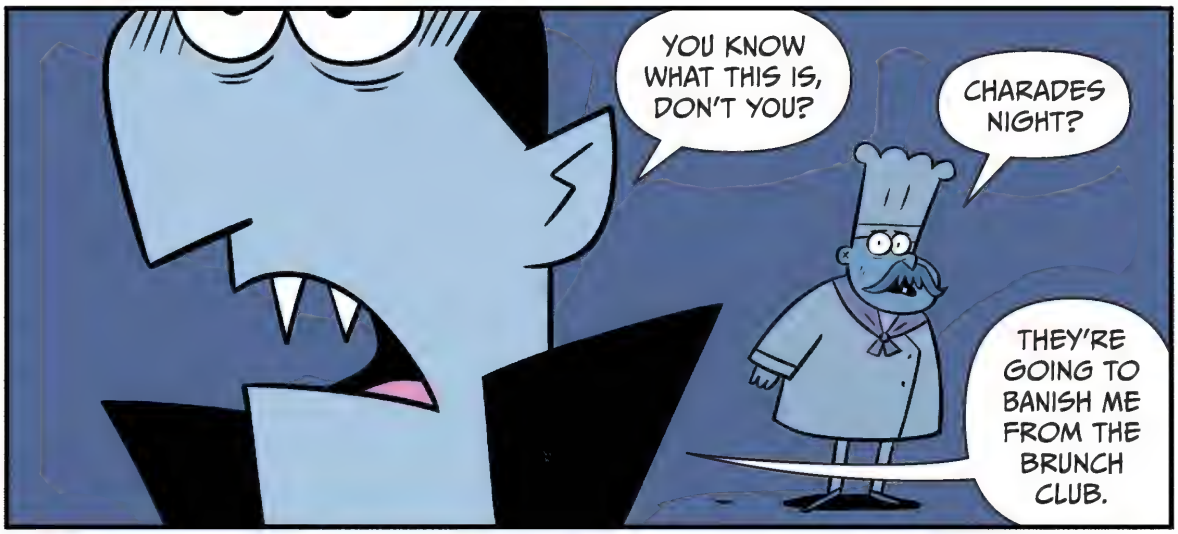
SEEING YOU TWICE IN ONE NIGHT? WHY THE UNEXPECTED TREAT?
THIS IS NO TREAT. I'VE GOT NEWS.

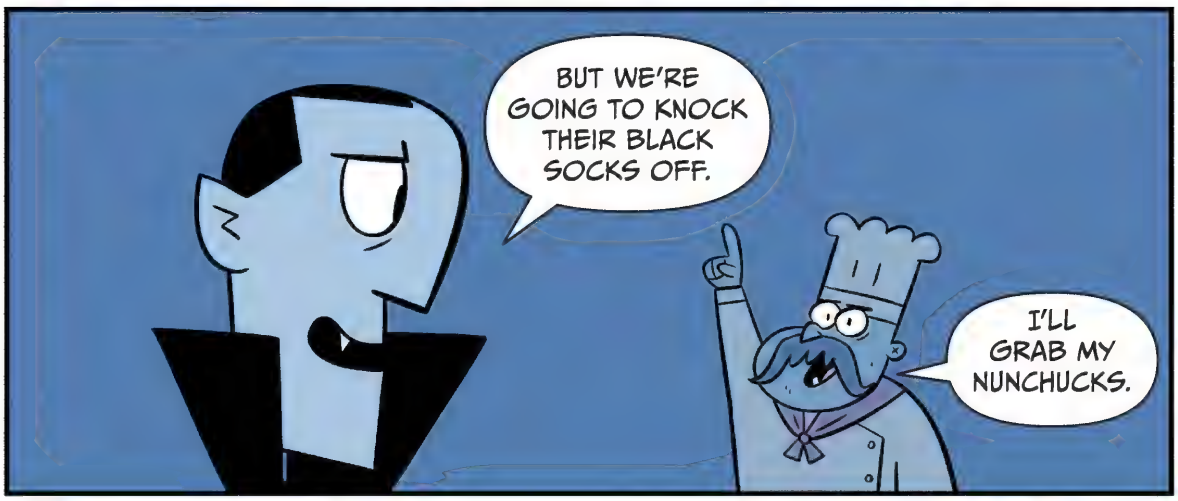

IGOR PASSED OUT FROM BEING TOO WEAK TO FLY AND LANDED IN A GARLIC PATCH AT RENFIELD'S FARM.
CONSTANTINE WAS IN THE AREA AND SAVED HIM IN TIME, BUT HE GOT THE REST OF THE VAMPIRES REALLY WORKED UP OVER IT.

YOU'RE NEEDED AT CONSTANTINE'S CASTLE TOMORROW AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT.
THE WHOLE BRUNCH CLUB WILL BE THERE.

SHALL I PREPARE SOME SCONES FOR YOU TO BRING?
THAT'LL MAKE THINGS WORSE.
I'LL BE THERE. IT'S TIME I STAND UP TO HIM.

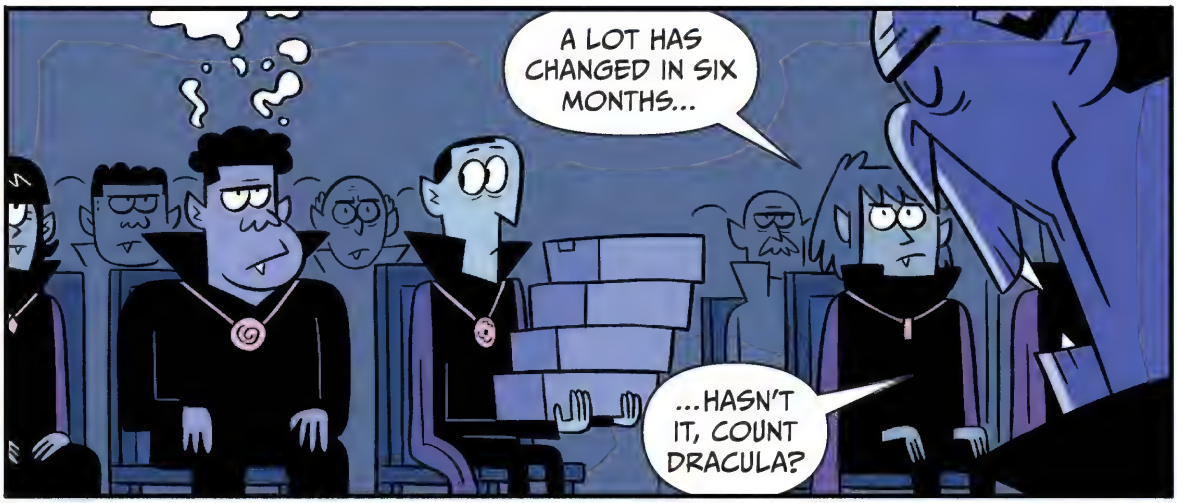
SORRY, BUDDY.

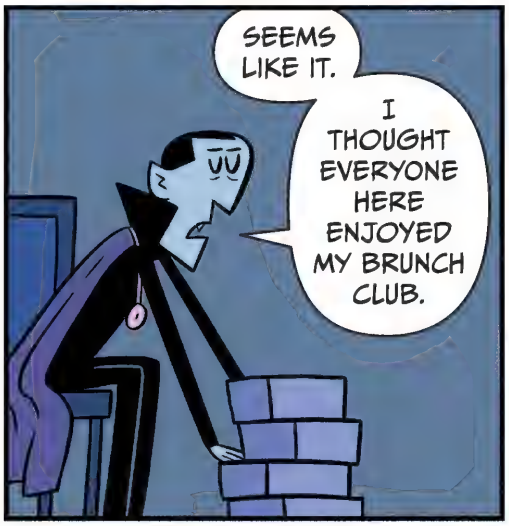

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, DON'T YOU?
CHARADES NIGHT?
THEY'RE GOING TO BANISH ME FROM THE BRUNCH CLUB.


BUT WE'RE GOING TO KNOCK THEIR BLACK SOCKS OFF.
I'LL GRAB MY NUNCHUCKS.

GRAB YOUR *SPATULA.*
WE'RE GONNA WHIP UP ANOTHER TWO DOZEN OF THOSE *BLOODVARIAN CREAMS.*

TAKE A SEAT.


A LOT HAS CHANGED IN SIX MONTHS...
...HASN'T IT, COUNT DRACULA?


SEEMS LIKE IT.
I THOUGHT EVERYONE HERE ENJOYED MY BRUNCH CLUB.

IT *SHOULD* BE A FUN PLACE FOR YOUR FELLOW VAMPIRES.
NOT FOR HUMANS, WHO HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TURN ON US.
WHEN I HOSTED, IT WAS NOTHING BUT PEACEFUL.
YOU CAME BACK AND KILLED THE VIBE--

SORRY, WHY IS HE SMOKING?

BECAUSE YOU SPEND MORE TIME HELPING HUMANS THAN YOUR OWN KIND.
IF DORIAN HERE HAD YOUR JELLY DONUTS, HE WOULDN'T HAVE FAINTED OUTSIDE BEFORE DAYBREAK, ALMOST GETTING BURNT BY THE SUN.
I SMELL LIKE A CHRISTMAS HAM!

WHEN YOU ABANDONED EVERYONE FOR SIX MONTHS ONLY TO COME BACK *WITHOUT* THE JELLY WE CRAVE...
...IT HURT US ALL.
A BRUNCH WITHOUT JELLY IS NOT A SEVERE OFFENSE.
IT IS WHEN WE RELY ON IT FOR *ENERGY*.
LOOK AT EVERYONE, THEY'RE EITHER HALF ASLEEP OR NEED CANES TO WALK. WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT.
YOU'RE QUITE CHIPPER.
PERHAPS YOU HAVE SOME TIPS YOU COULD SHARE?
I PULL IT TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP!
AND I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP...
...FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR COMMUNITY...
I MOVE THAT COUNT DRACULA IS PERMANENTLY TERMINATED FROM THE VAMPIRE BRUNCH CLUB.

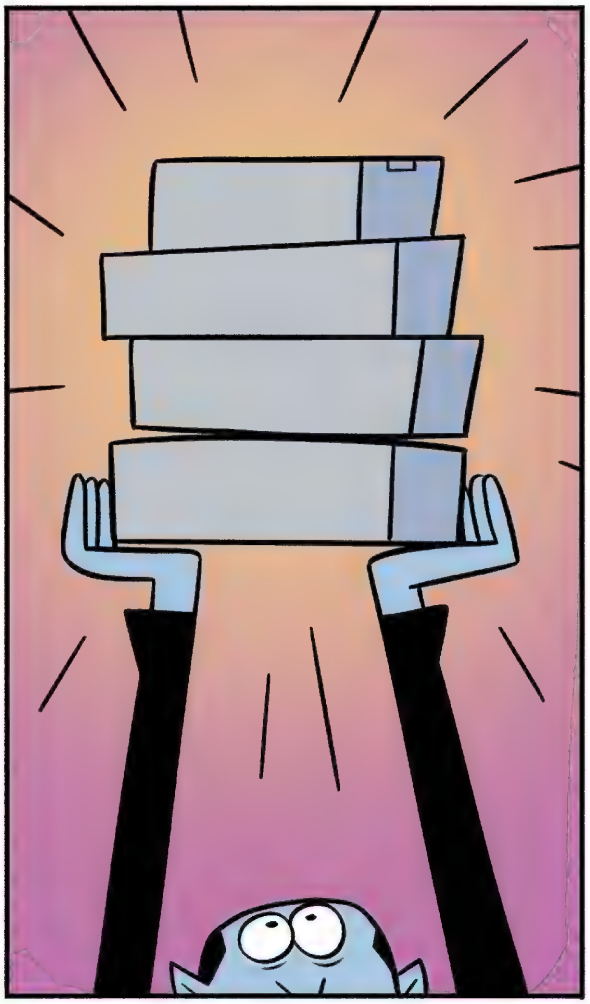
I'LL SECOND THAT.
ALL IN FAVOR, PLEASE STAND.
UGH, I'M TOO TIRED TO STAND.
THEN RAISE YOUR HANDS.

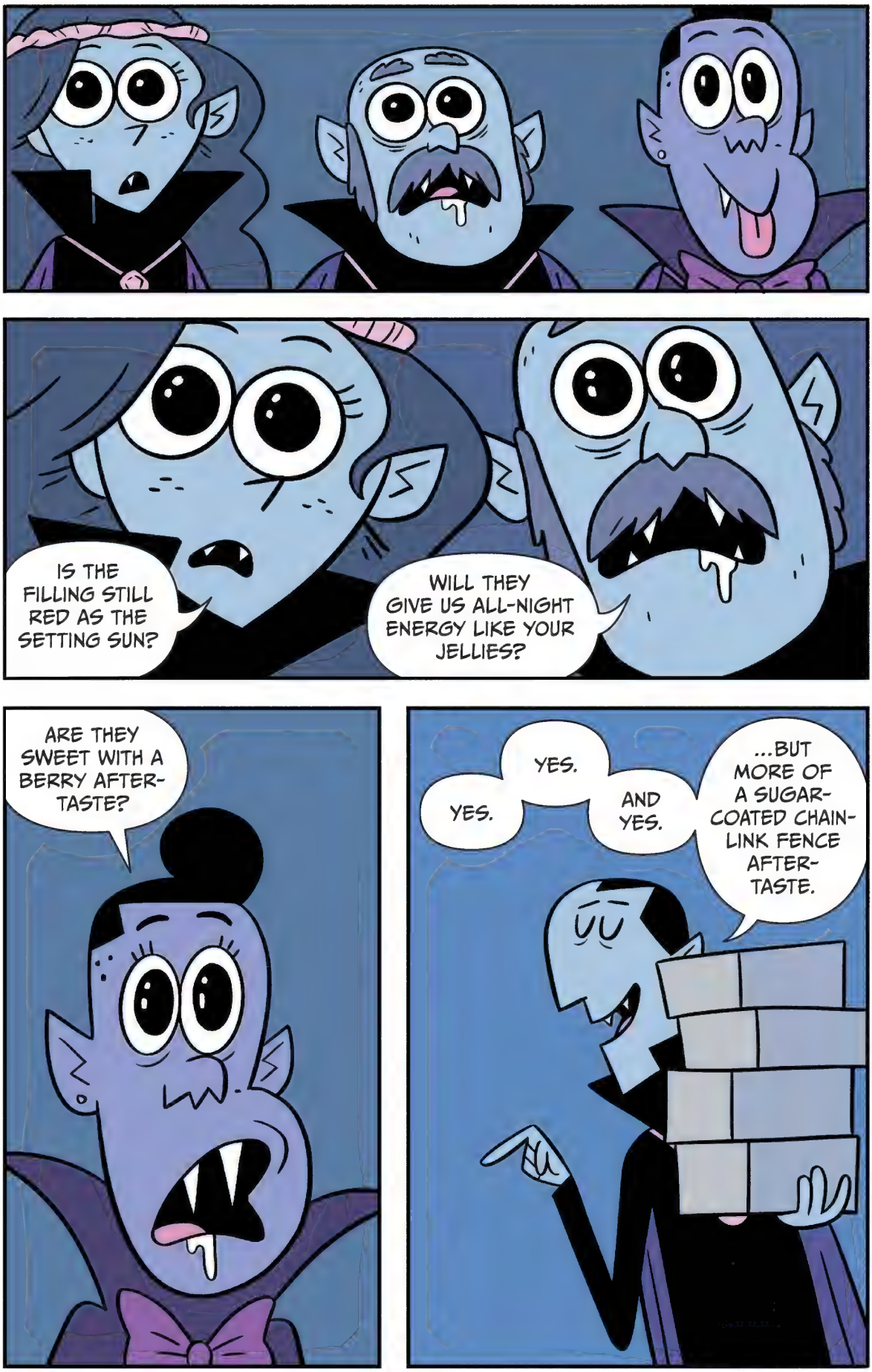
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE UNSURE, REMEMBER THE HUMAN VAMPIRE HUNTERS THAT RAVISHED OUR COMMUNITY.
THEY BLAMED *US* BECAUSE OF *THEIR* PROBLEMS.
THEY TRIED TO WIPE US OUT BECAUSE WE WERE DIFFERENT.
THAT WAS A SMALL GROUP!
NONE OF THEM ARE EVEN ALIVE ANYMORE...
IF WE LET OUR GUARD DOWN, MORE WILL COME TO TAKE US DOWN. COUNT DRACULA CAN'T SEE THAT.
HE REFUSES TO PROTECT US.
NO MATTER, I SEE WE HAVE A MAJORITY.

IT'S A SHAME YOU WOULD CAST OUT A FELLOW VAMPIRE WHEN WE'RE TRYING TO COME TOGETHER IN OUR TIME OF NEED...

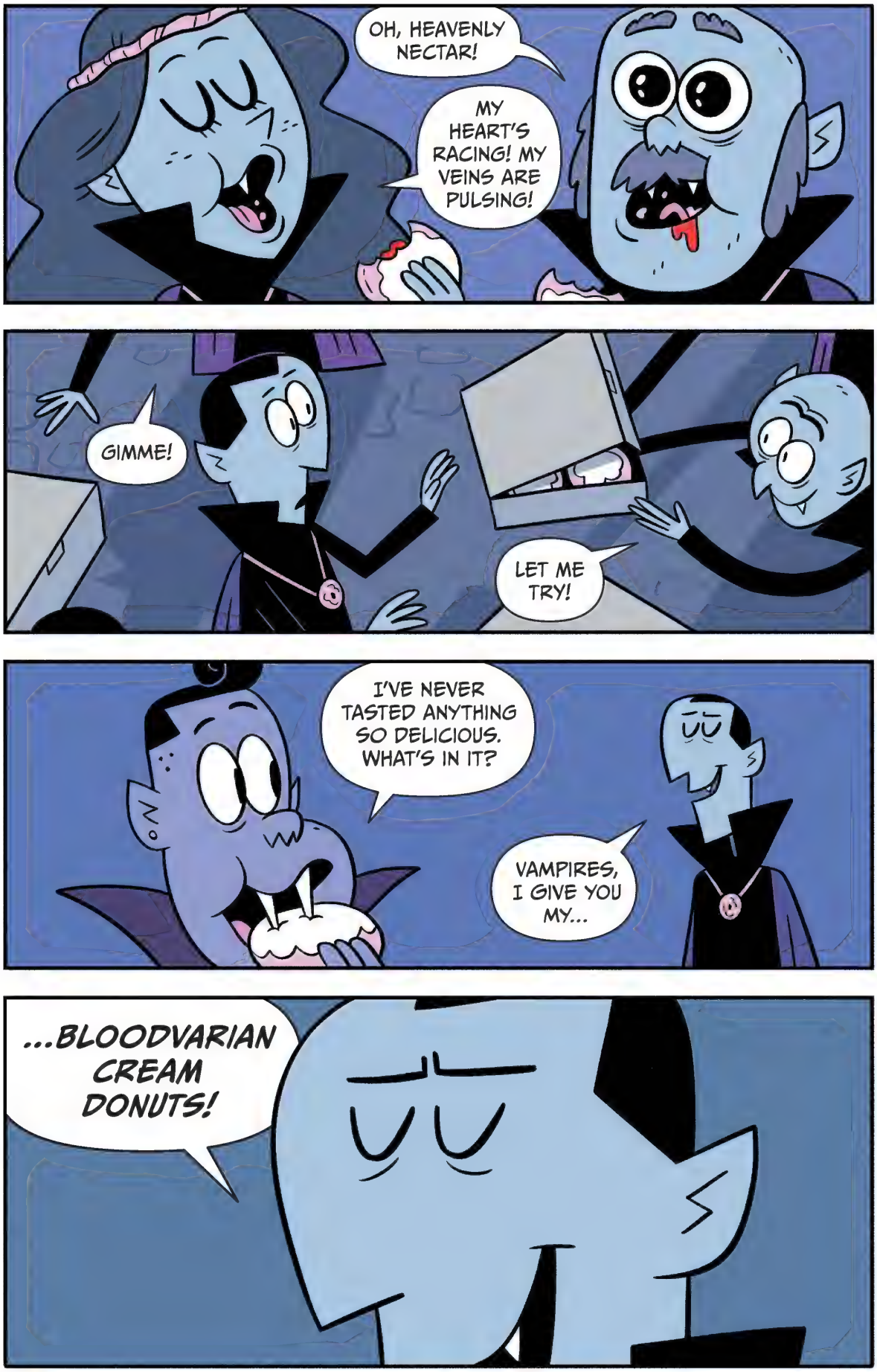
...THE SAME VAMPIRE WHO PROMISED TO HAVE HIS SIGNATURE DISH AT THE NEXT MEETING...

...THE SAME VAMPIRE WHO HAS SINCE DEVELOPED A *TASTIER* JELLY DONUT.




IS THE FILLING STILL RED AS THE SETTING SUN?
WILL THEY GIVE US ALL-NIGHT ENERGY LIKE YOUR JELLIES?
ARE THEY SWEET WITH A BERRY AFTER-TASTE?
YES.
YES.
AND YES.
...BUT MORE OF A SUGAR-COATED CHAIN-LINK FENCE AFTER-TASTE.

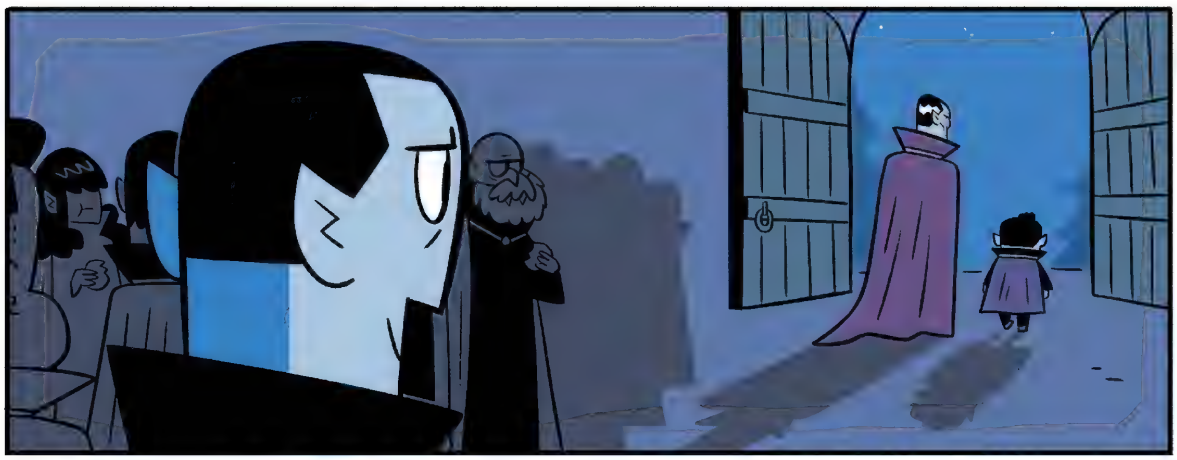
ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE.
THE VOTE HAS BEEN CAST, YOU MUST LEAVE NOW.
I VOULD LIKE TO HAVE A TASTE FIRST.
BE MY GUEST!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHEW
CHEW


OH, HEAVENLY NECTAR!
MY HEART'S RACING! MY VEINS ARE PULSING!
GIMME!
LET ME TRY!
I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING SO DELICIOUS. WHAT'S IN IT?
VAMPIRES, I GIVE YOU MY...
...BLOODVARIAN CREAM DONUTS!

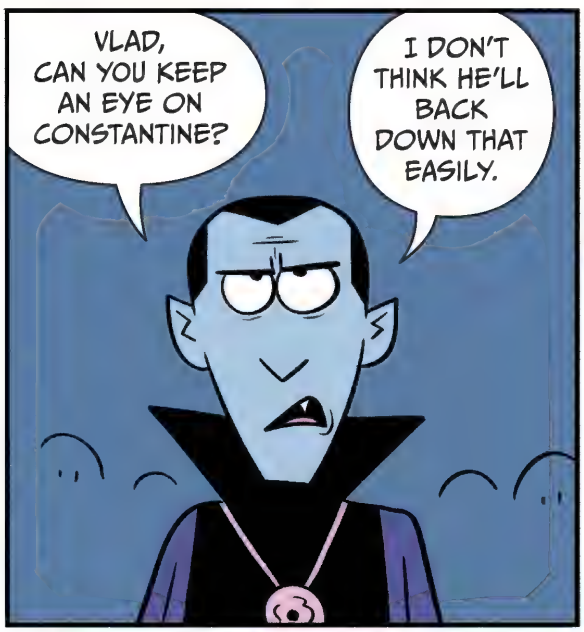
WAAAAHOOOO!
GREGOR! COME DOWN AT ONCE!
WHAT'S IN IT? IT'S DIVINE.
SECRET INGREDIENT.
EVERYONE SIT BACK DOWN, NOW!
MY TASTE BUDS ARE TINGLING!
THIS IS ORGANIC, RIGHT?
HOW CAN I GET MORE?
PUT THE DONUTS DOWN, HE HAS TO LEAVE.

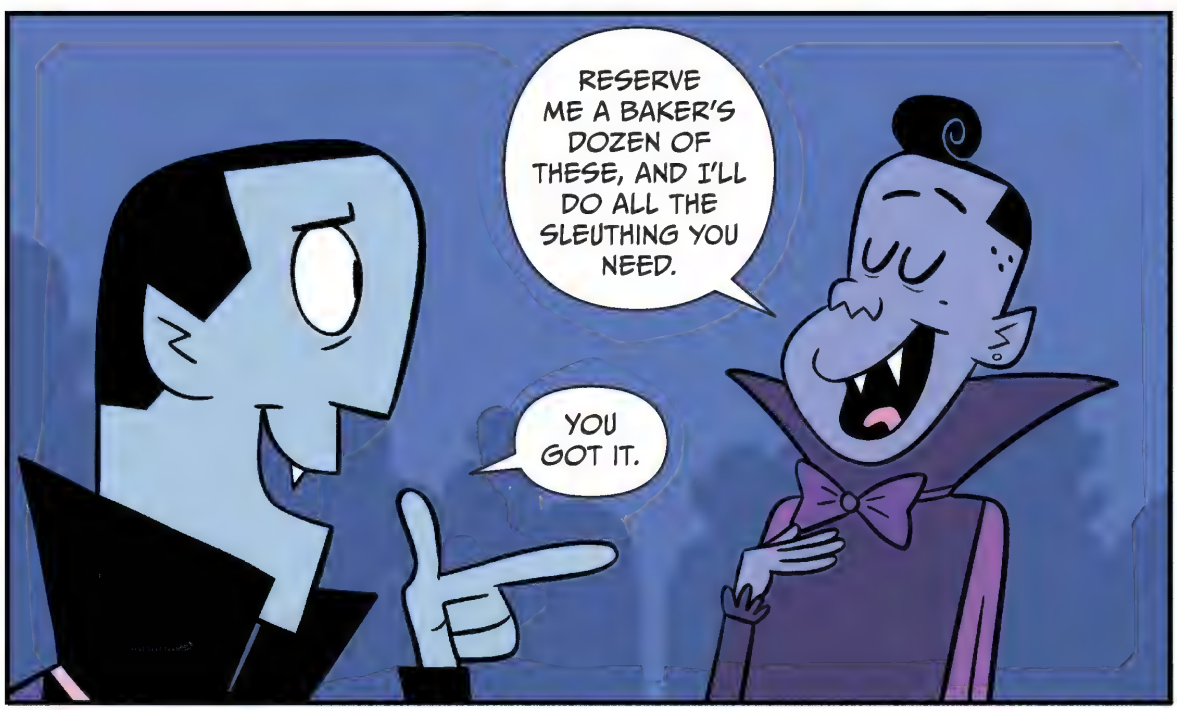
I MEAN, I *COULD* BRING SOME TO THE NEXT BRUNCH...
...*IF* I WAS STILL IN THE CLUB.
I MOVE TO CANCEL OUR VOTE.
SECOND!
AS YOUR LEADER, ONLY I CAN--
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THIS GUY, YOU HAVE *GOT* TO TRY THESE.

PTEW!
ALL IN FAVOR?
AYE!

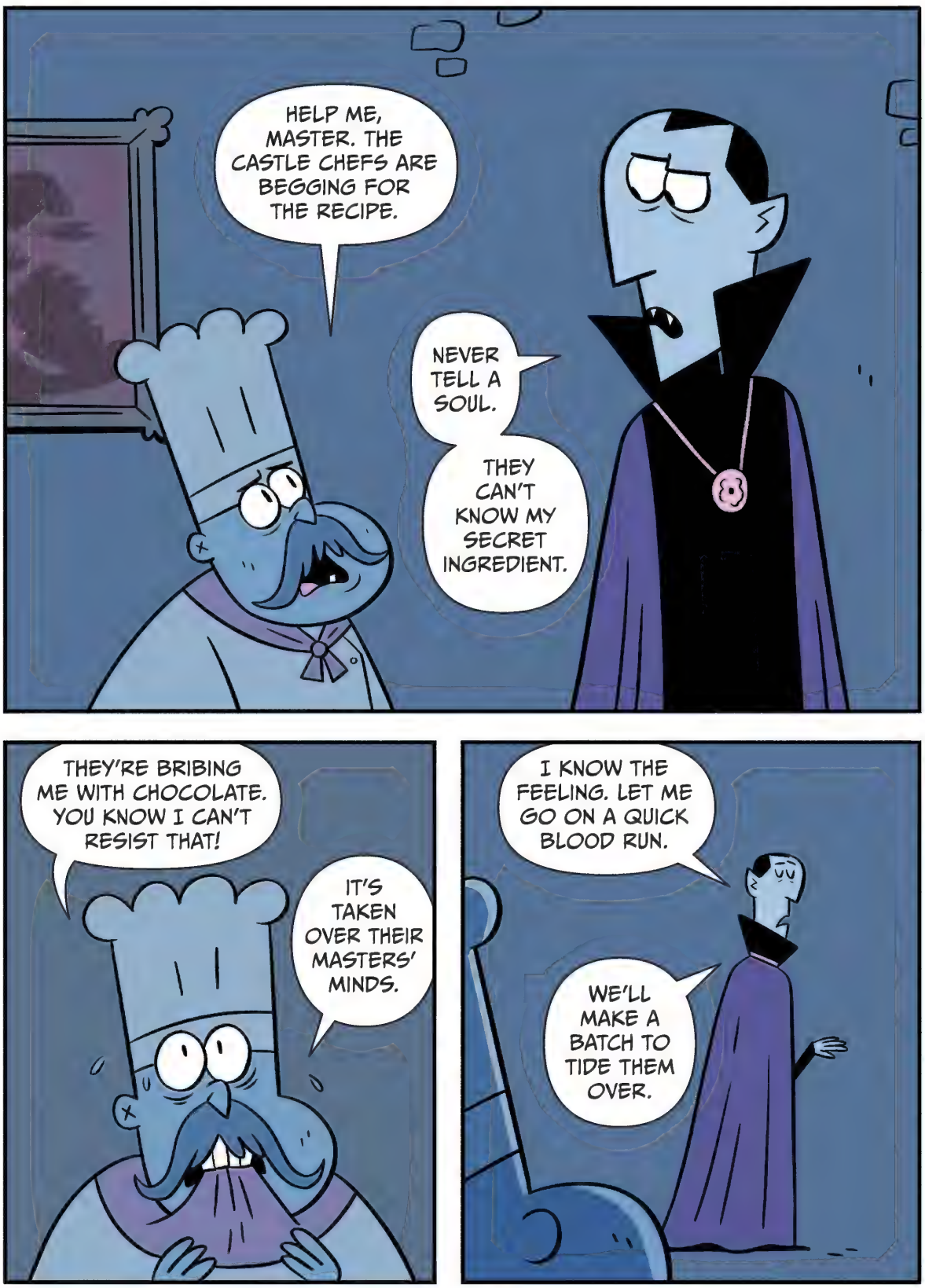


HOW DID HE DISCOVER THE SUBSTITUTE FOR JELLY?

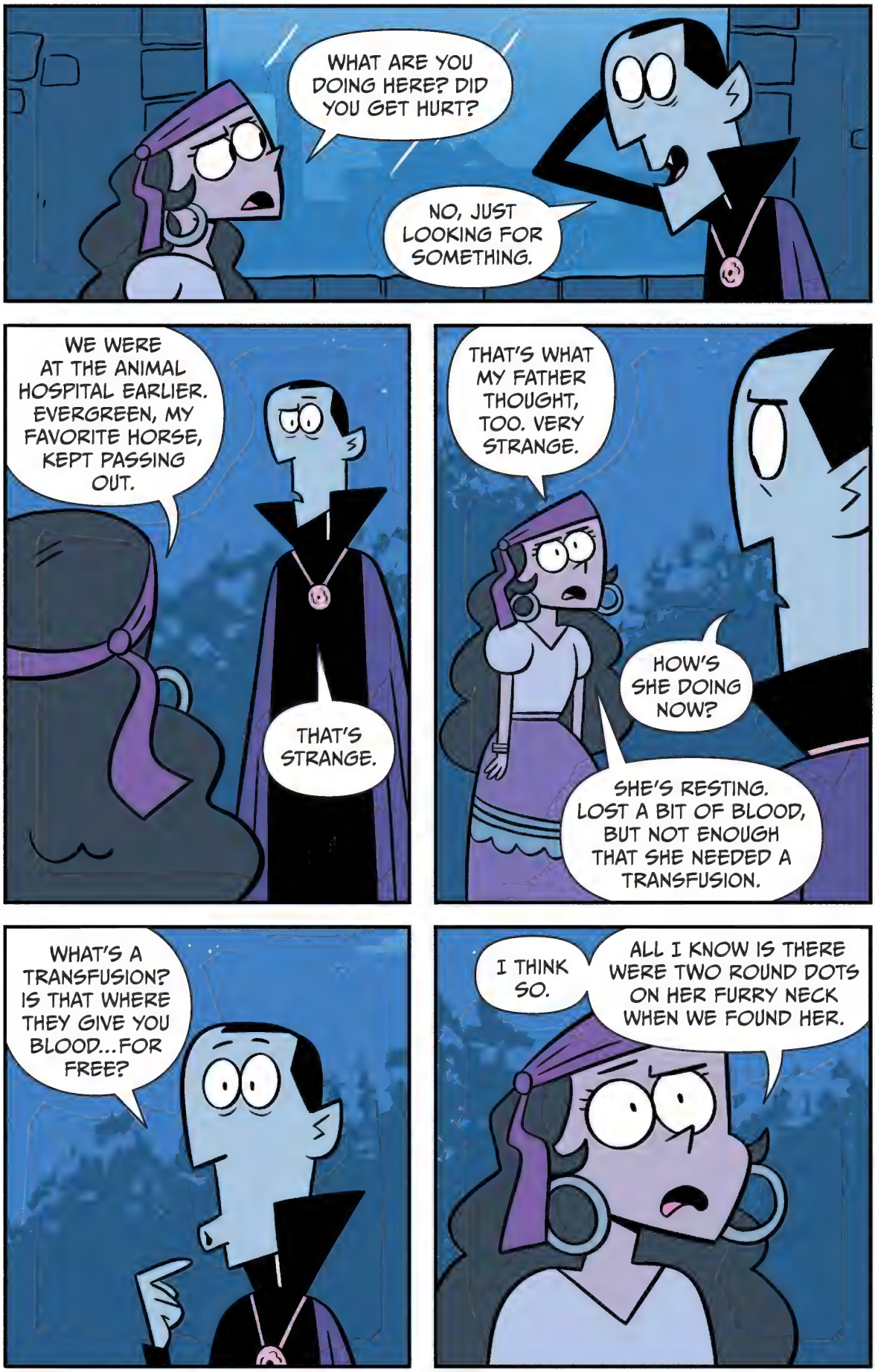

VLAD, CAN YOU KEEP AN EYE ON CONSTANTINE?
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BACK DOWN THAT EASILY.

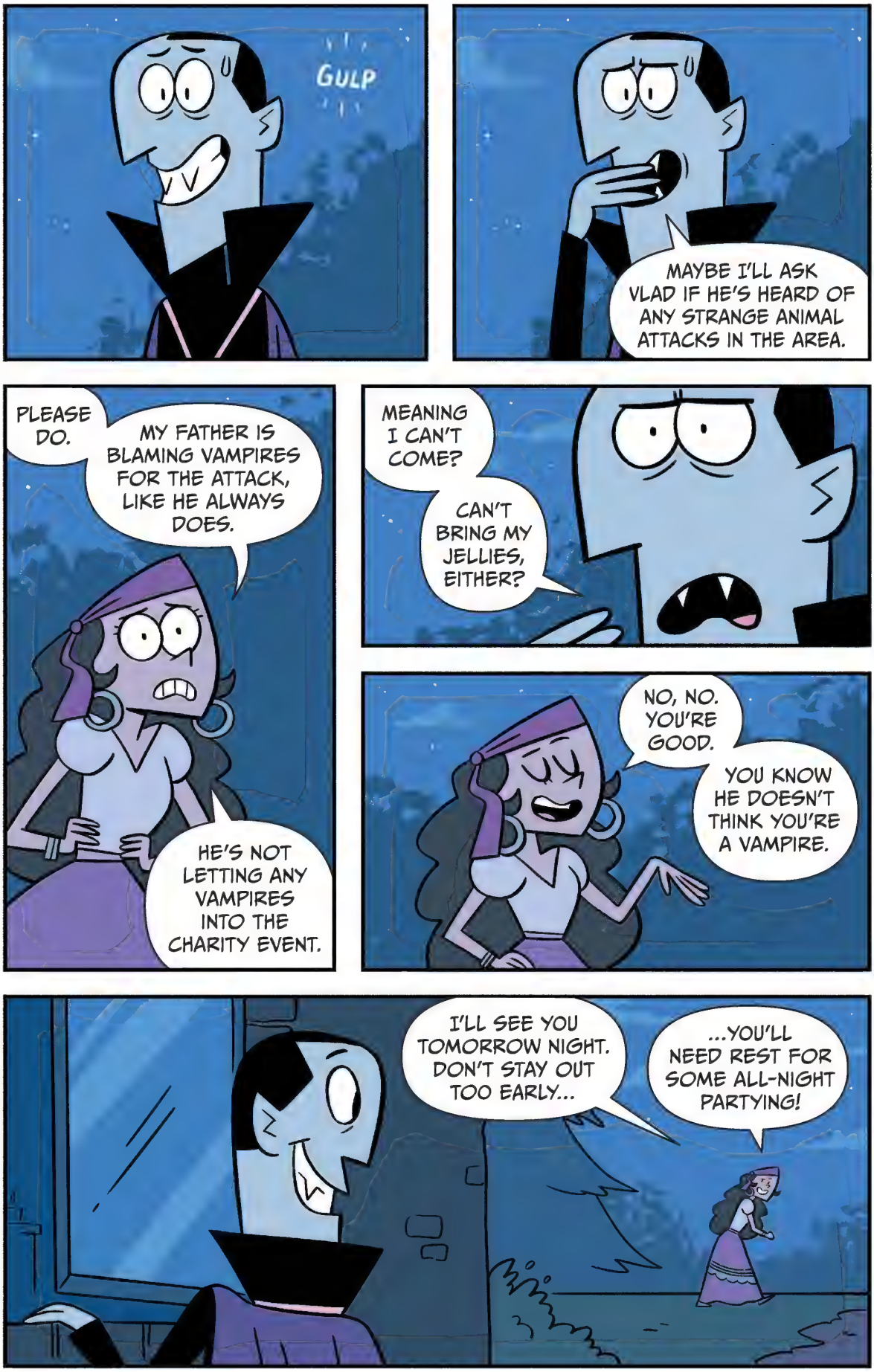

RESERVE ME A BAKER'S DOZEN OF THESE, AND I'LL DO ALL THE SLEUTHING YOU NEED.
YOU GOT IT.

Two Nights Later...

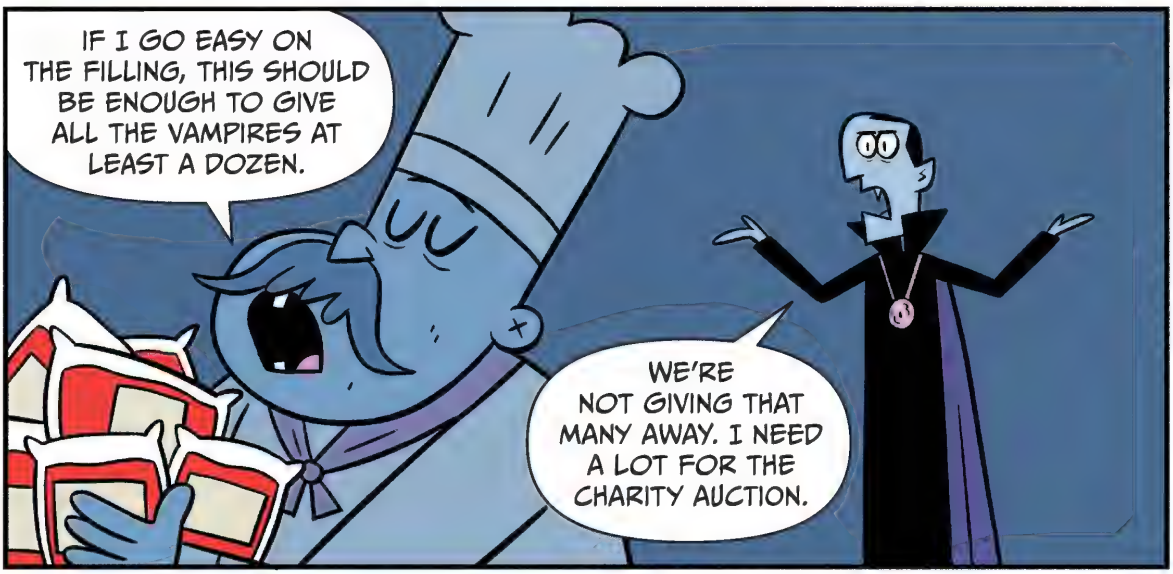


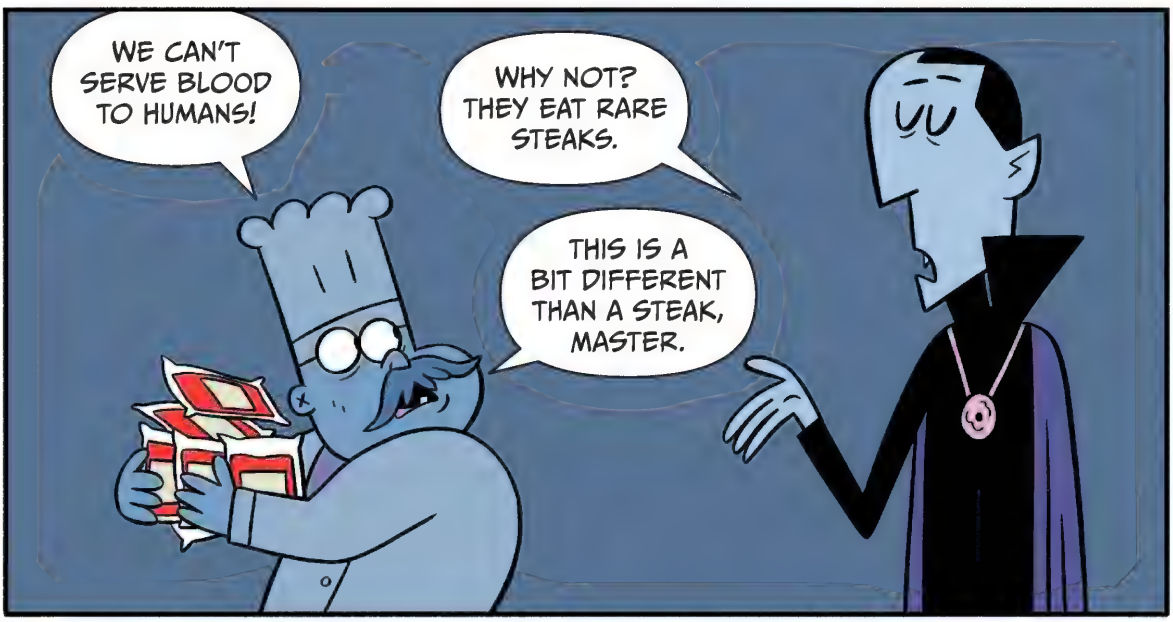
YOU OKAY?
ELENA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT THIS HOUR?
THE CHILDREN'S WARD IS NEXT DOOR.
I WAS DROPPING OFF A FEW COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR THE NURSES.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DID YOU GET HURT?
NO, JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
WE WERE AT THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL EARLIER. EVERGREEN, MY FAVORITE HORSE, KEPT PASSING OUT.
THAT'S STRANGE.
THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER THOUGHT, TOO. VERY STRANGE.
HOW'S SHE DOING NOW?
SHE'S RESTING. LOST A BIT OF BLOOD, BUT NOT ENOUGH THAT SHE NEEDED A TRANSFUSION.
WHAT'S A TRANSFUSION? IS THAT WHERE THEY GIVE YOU BLOOD...FOR FREE?
I THINK SO.
ALL I KNOW IS THERE WERE TWO ROUND DOTS ON HER FURRY NECK WHEN WE FOUND HER.


GULP
MAYBE I'LL ASK VLAD IF HE'S HEARD OF ANY STRANGE ANIMAL ATTACKS IN THE AREA.
PLEASE DO.
MY FATHER IS BLAMING VAMPIRES FOR THE ATTACK, LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.
HE'S NOT LETTING ANY VAMPIRES INTO THE CHARITY EVENT.
MEANING I CAN'T COME?
CAN'T BRING MY JELLIES, EITHER?
NO, NO. YOU'RE GOOD.
YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T THINK YOU'RE A VAMPIRE.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT. DON'T STAY OUT TOO EARLY...
...YOU'LL NEED REST FOR SOME ALL-NIGHT PARTYING!

THIS IS ALL I COULD FIND.


IF I GO EASY ON THE FILLING, THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GIVE ALL THE VAMPIRES AT LEAST A DOZEN.
WE'RE NOT GIVING THAT MANY AWAY. I NEED A LOT FOR THE CHARITY AUCTION.

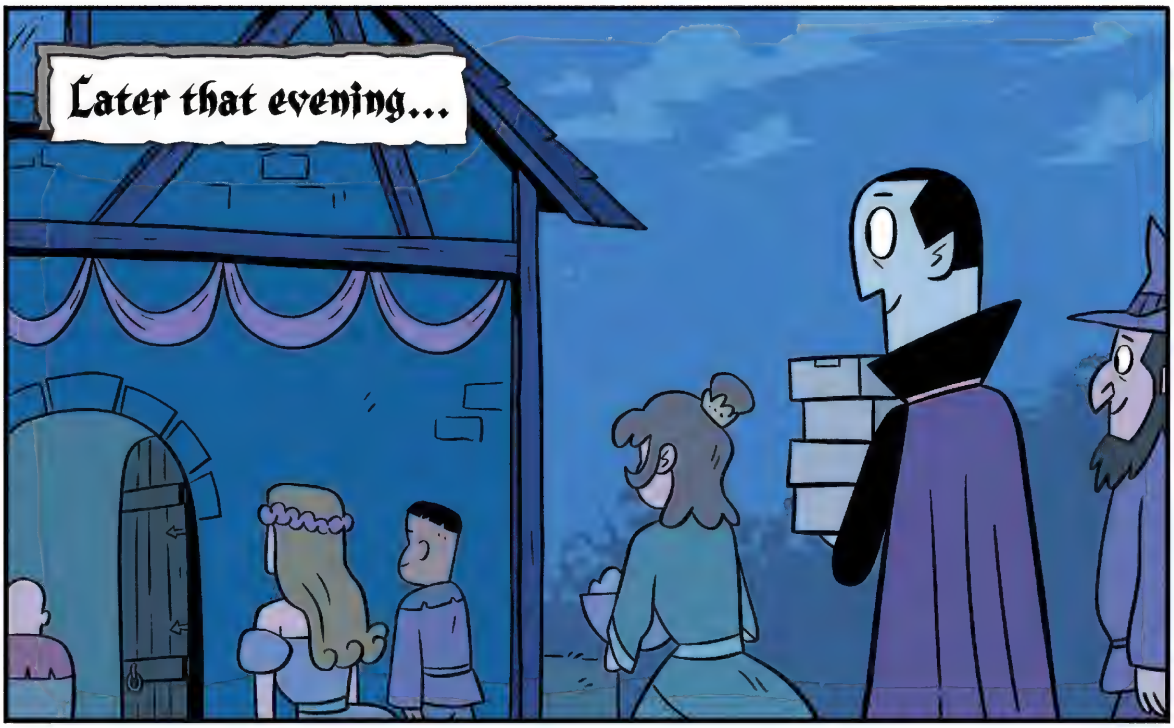

WE CAN'T SERVE BLOOD TO HUMANS!
WHY NOT? THEY EAT RARE STEAKS.
THIS IS A BIT DIFFERENT THAN A STEAK, MASTER.

WHAT ABOUT SPRINKLED DONUTS?
IT'S NOT A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD'S BIRTHDAY.

WHAT ABOUT CHOCOLATE CREAM DONUTS?
THEY NEED TO TASTE THE DONUTS THEY'RE BIDDING ON. THESE ARE CLOSER TO JELLY.
WHAT ABOUT--

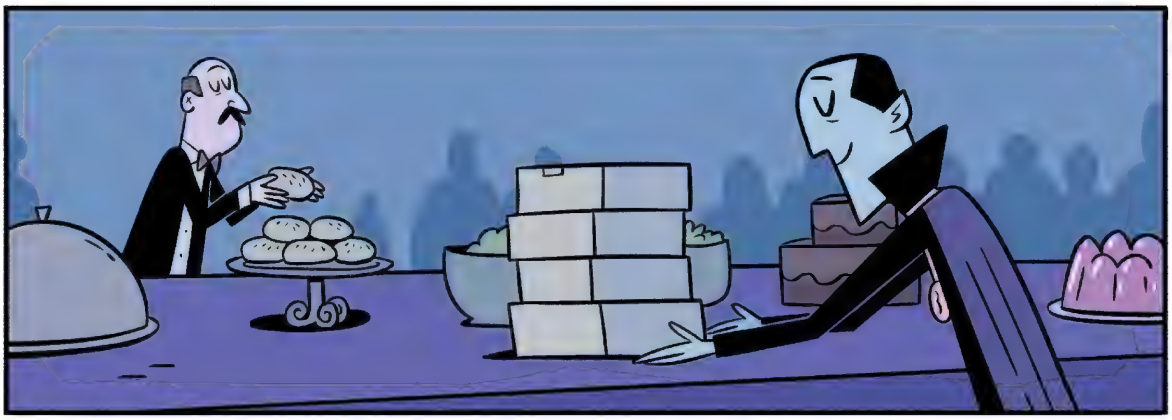
UNLESS YOU FIND A WAY TO TURN MY SLIPPERS INTO JELLY...
...I SUGGEST YOU ADD A TON OF SUGAR AND SPICES TO COVER UP THE BLOOD TASTE.
MAYBE IF WE--

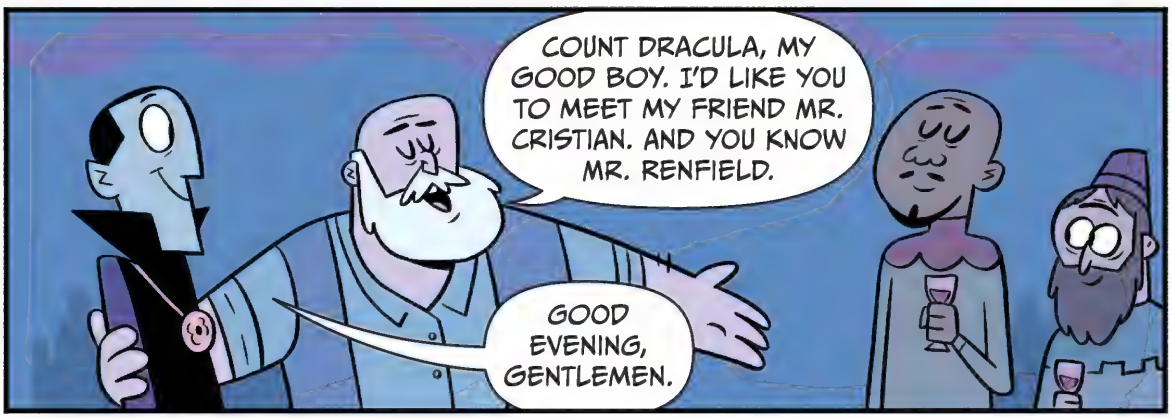
DO NOT TOUCH MY EVIL BUNNY SLIPPERS.


Later that evening...

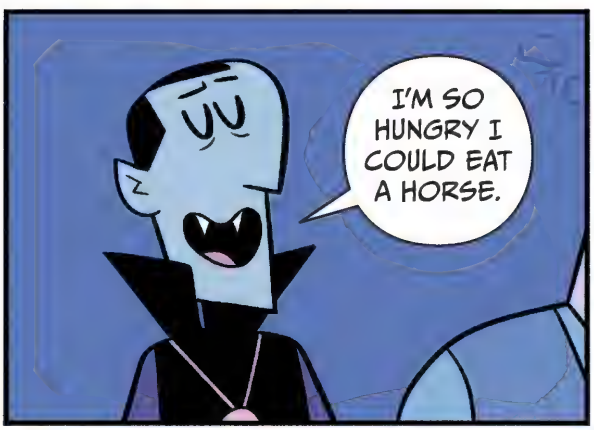
COUNTIE, YOU MADE IT! AND YOUR DONUTS, TOO!
WHERE SHOULD I PUT THEM?

ON THE DESSERT TABLE. WE'LL WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE NIGHT TO SERVE THEM...
...IT'LL MAKE PEOPLE STAY LONGER BIDDING ON ITEMS IF THEY'RE HOLDING OUT FOR THE DONUTS!



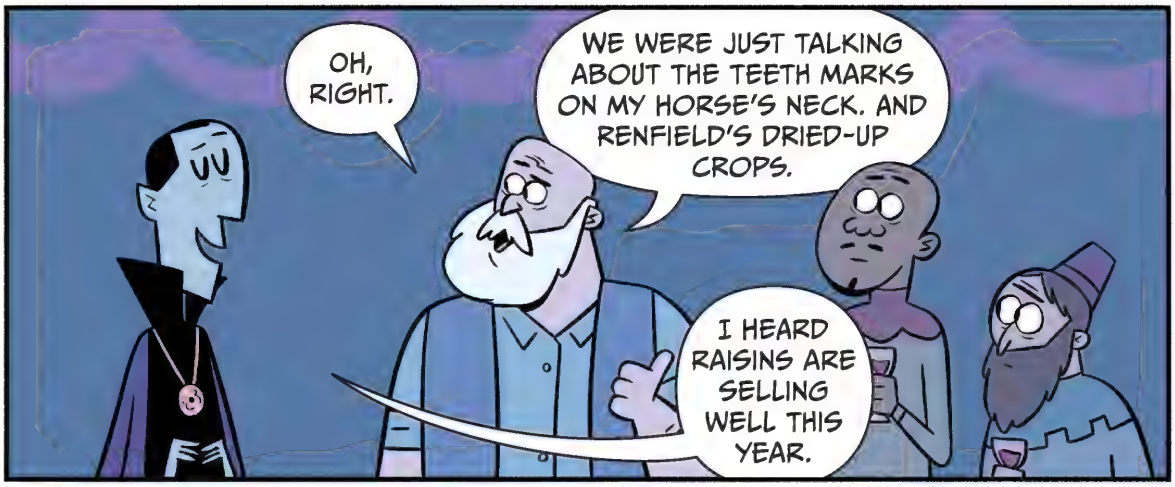

COUNT DRACULA, MY GOOD BOY. I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY FRIEND MR. CRISTIAN. AND YOU KNOW MR. RENFIELD.
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ONE OF YOUR JELLY DONUTS TONIGHT.


I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT A HORSE.

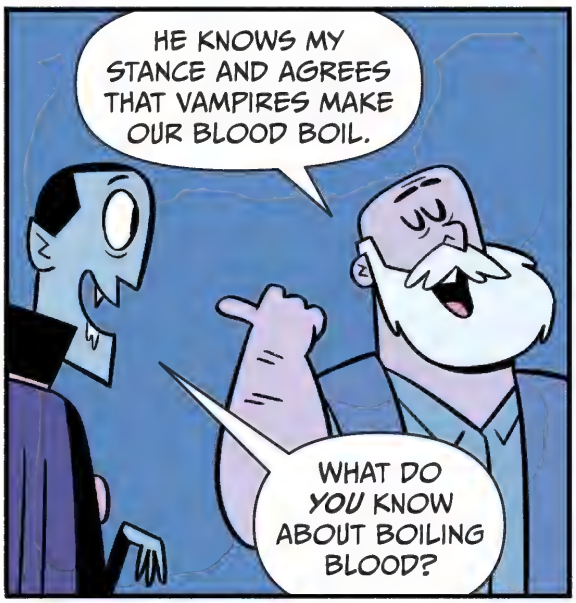
WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW ABOUT EATING HORSES?

NOTHING. IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.

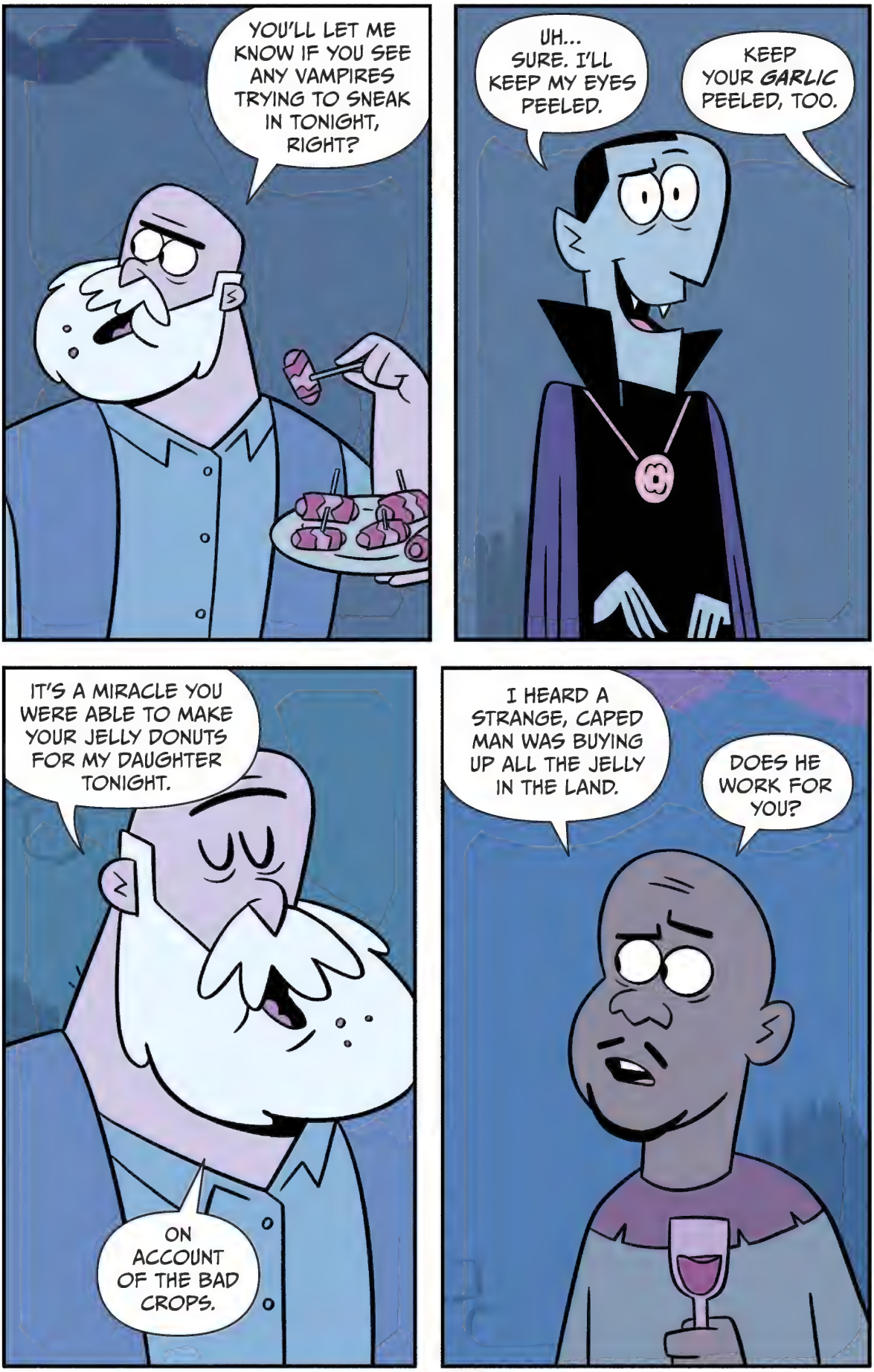

OH, RIGHT.
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THE TEETH MARKS ON MY HORSE'S NECK. AND RENFIELD'S DRIED-UP CROPS.
I HEARD RAISINS ARE SELLING WELL THIS YEAR.

I KNOW IT'S VAMPIRES WHO ARE BEHIND THIS. I HEARD LEGENDS OF THEM DOING THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE STEERING CLEAR OF HUMANS NOW.
THEY'RE COMING FOR US.

SHOULD YOU BE SAYING THIS IN FRONT OF COUNT DRACULA?


HE KNOWS MY STANCE AND AGREES THAT VAMPIRES MAKE OUR BLOOD BOIL.
WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW ABOUT BOILING BLOOD?

NOTHING. IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
OH, RIGHT.

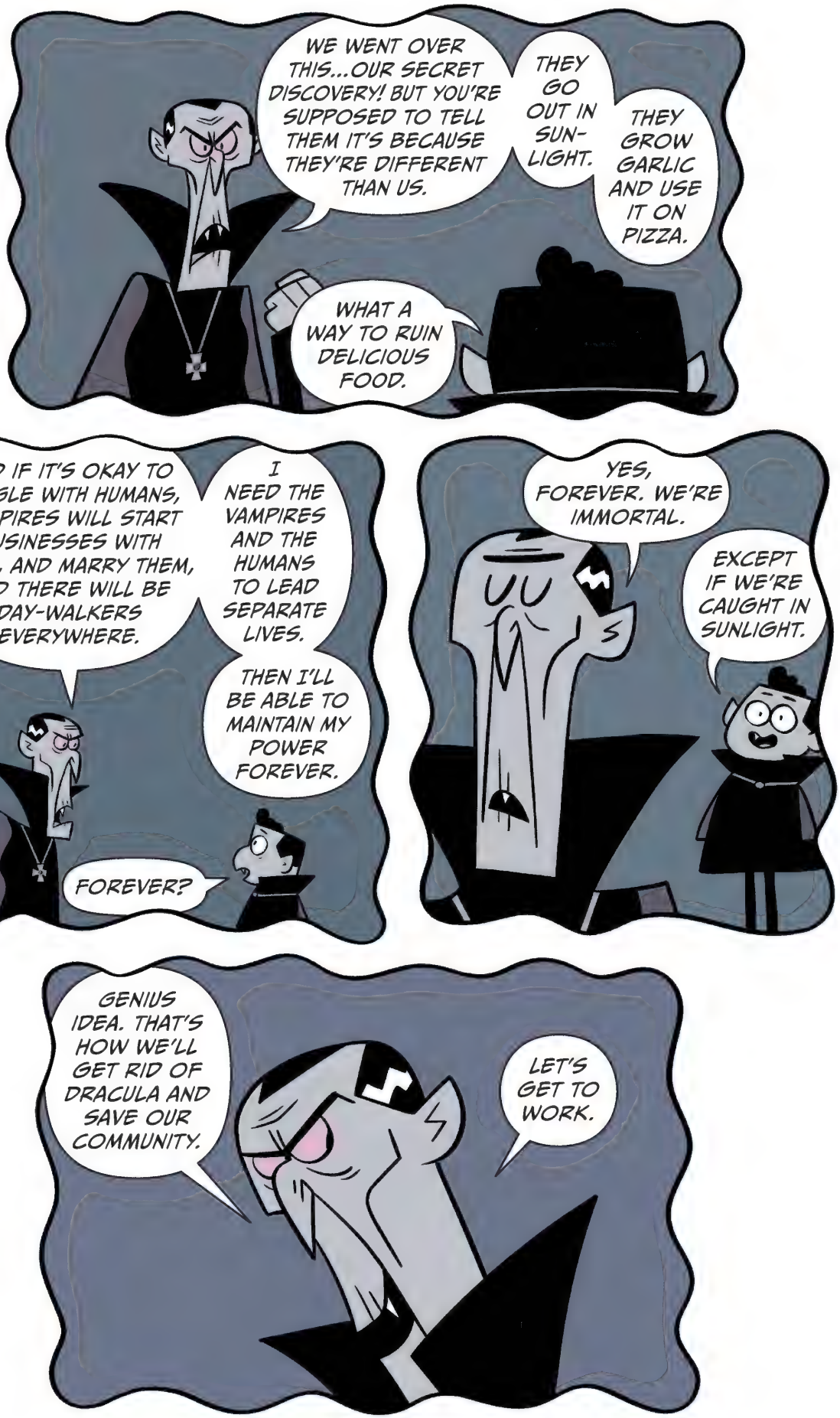

YOU'LL LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANY VAMPIRES TRYING TO SNEAK IN TONIGHT, RIGHT?
UH... SURE. I'LL KEEP MY EYES PEELED.
KEEP YOUR GARLIC PEELED, TOO.
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE YOUR JELLY DONUTS FOR MY DAUGHTER TONIGHT.
ON ACCOUNT OF THE BAD CROPS.
I HEARD A STRANGE, CAPED MAN WAS BUYING UP ALL THE JELLY IN THE LAND.
DOES HE WORK FOR YOU?

ME? NO.
COUNT DRACULA IS A WORLD-RENOWNED CHEF.
HE CAN SOURCE JELLY FROM ANYWHERE IF HE WANTS TO.
SO WHAT KIND OF JELLY IS IN YOUR DONUTS TONIGHT?
IT'S A SECRET RECIPE.
MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE?

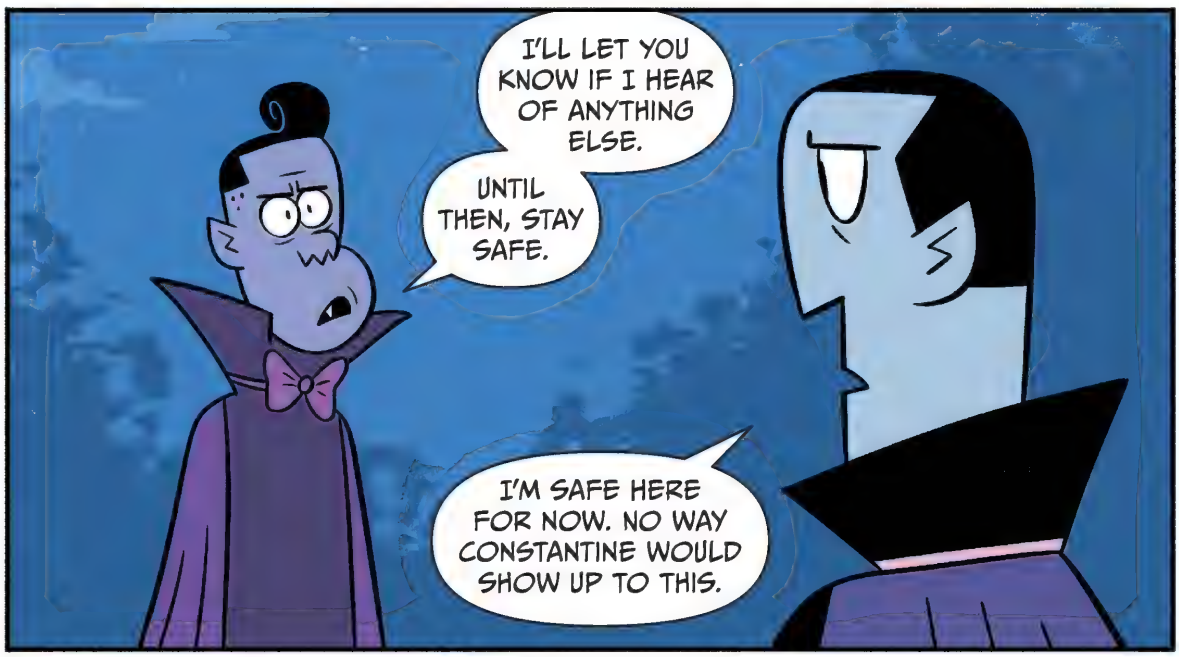
I HOPE YOU'RE ALL ENJOYING THE EVENT TONIGHT. THE AUCTION TO SUPPORT THE SICK KIDS AT THE HOSPITAL WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.
THERE'S SOME BEAUTIFUL JEWELRY AND, OF COURSE...
...A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF COUNT DRACULA'S JELLY DONUTS!
BUT UNTIL THEN, EAT UP! THERE'S A...
PSST. DRAC.
VLAD?
MEET ME OUTSIDE. I CAN'T BE SEEN HERE.
AND GRAB ME A BLOODVARIAN CREAM. I CAN SMELL THEM FROM HERE.
TELL ME THE TRUTH...
...WAS IT THE LONG FANGS THAT MADE YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

HERE'S YOUR DONUT. WHAT'S GOING ON?
SO CREAMY. IS THIS AN A-NEGATIVE BLOOD CREAM?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE'S BLOOD IN THESE?
NONE OF THE GUYS PICKED UP ON IT, BUT YOU DID NAME THEM BLOOD-VARIAN CREAMS.
CRUD. BUT NO ONE ELSE KNOWS?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO ELENA'S FARM, HAVE YOU?
OH, THE HORSE THING? THAT WAS GREGOR. HE FIGURED IT OUT TOO AND COULDN'T CONTAIN HIMSELF.
WE NEED TO KEEP THAT A SECRET FROM THE OTHER VAMPIRES...
...OR ELSE THE HUMANS WILL TURN AGAINST US.
NO ONE ELSE KNOWS.
GOOD, NOW WHAT DID YOU WANT FROM ME?
THE OTHER DAY, WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO KEEP TABS ON CONSTAN-TINE...
...I DID.

WE WERE SO CLOSE! WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE, ORLOK?
DID YOU TASTE THEM? IT WAS LIKE I WAS HIT WITH ONE OF THOSE MACHINES THEY USE ON HUMANS TO BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE.
A DEFIBRILLATOR?
YES. A CREAMY, BLOODY, SUGARY DEFIBRILLATOR.
I CAN'T ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE. DRACULA MAY ALREADY BE ON OUR TRAIL.
SOON HE'LL HAVE HIS POWER BACK, AND HE'LL BE BRAINWASHING EVERYONE THAT HUMANS ARE OKAY.
AND WHY IS THAT BAD?
JUST SO I CAN TELL THE OTHERS.

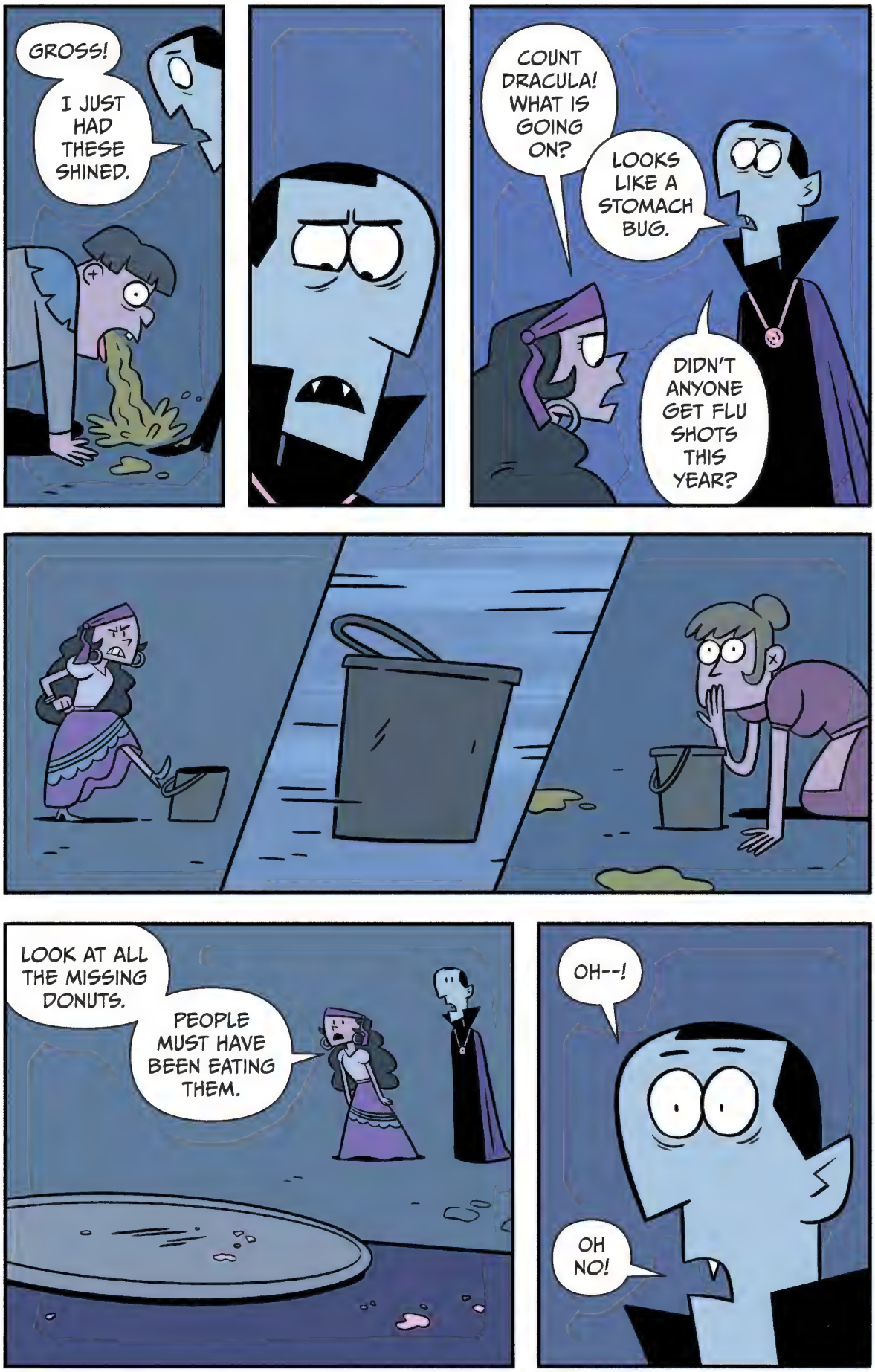

WE WENT OVER THIS...OUR SECRET DISCOVERY! BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TELL THEM IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE DIFFERENT THAN US.
THEY GO OUT IN SUN-LIGHT.
THEY GROW GARLIC AND USE IT ON PIZZA.
WHAT A WAY TO RUIN DELICIOUS FOOD.
AND IF IT'S OKAY TO MINGLE WITH HUMANS, VAMPIRES WILL START BUSINESSES WITH THEM, AND MARRY THEM, AND THERE WILL BE DAY-WALKERS EVERYWHERE.
I NEED THE VAMPIRES AND THE HUMANS TO LEAD SEPARATE LIVES.
THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN MY POWER FOREVER.
FOREVER?
YES, FOREVER. WE'RE IMMORTAL.
EXCEPT IF WE'RE CAUGHT IN SUNLIGHT.
GENIUS IDEA. THAT'S HOW WE'LL GET RID OF DRACULA AND SAVE OUR COMMUNITY.
LET'S GET TO WORK.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FATHER WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME.


I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF I HEAR OF ANYTHING ELSE.
UNTIL THEN, STAY SAFE.
I'M SAFE HERE FOR NOW. NO WAY CONSTANTINE WOULD SHOW UP TO THIS.

HOW'S IT GOING IN THERE?
REALLY WELL.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE DONUTS.

WHAT IN THE WORLD?
HRRRK

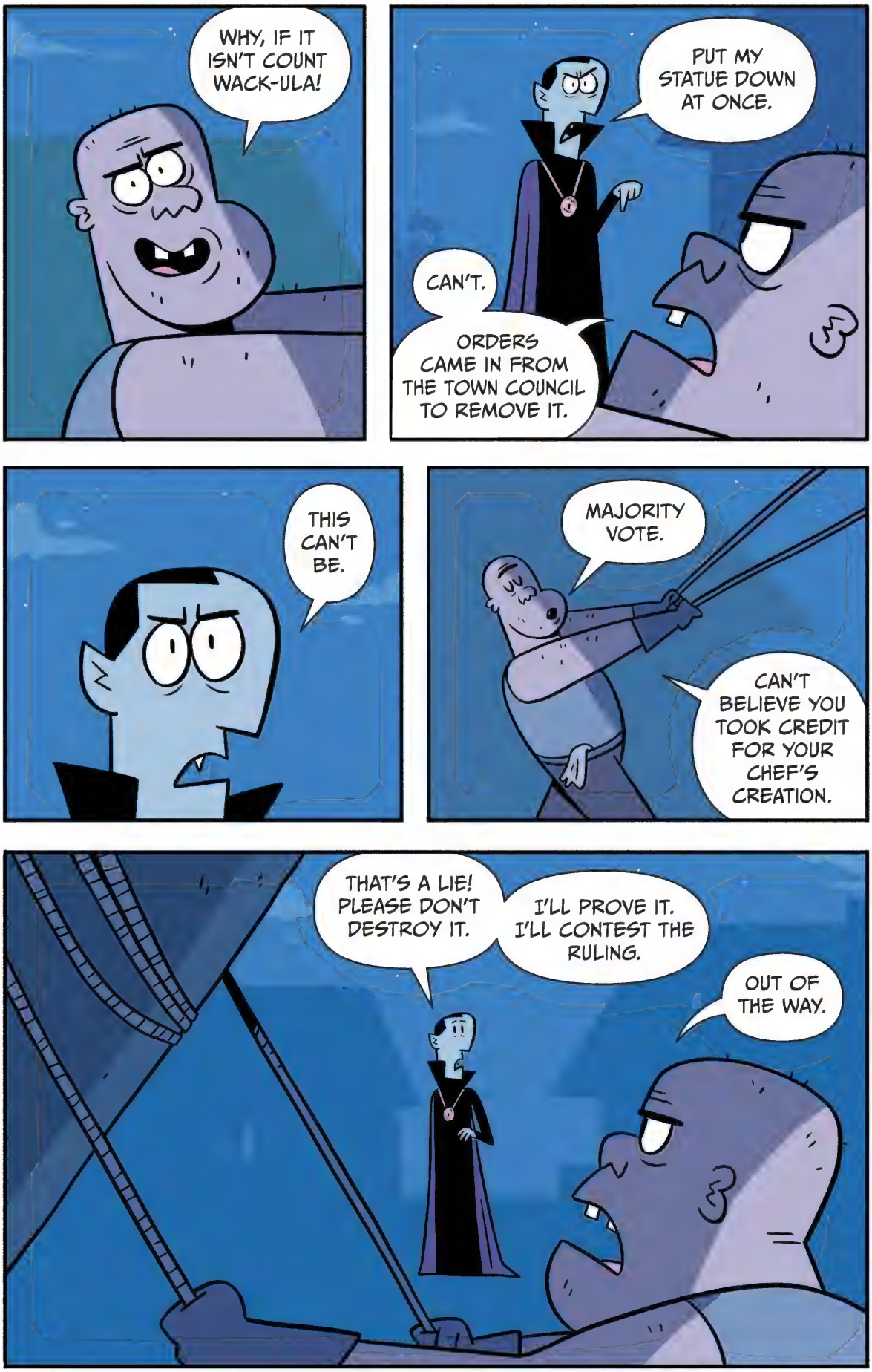

GROSS!
I JUST HAD THESE SHINED.
COUNT DRACULA! WHAT IS GOING ON?
LOOKS LIKE A STOMACH BUG.
DIDN'T ANYONE GET FLU SHOTS THIS YEAR?
LOOK AT ALL THE MISSING DONUTS.
PEOPLE MUST HAVE BEEN EATING THEM.
OH--!
OH NO!

WHY DID YOU SAY "OH NO"?
WHAT'S IN THEM?
UH...NATURAL INGREDIENTS...?
LIKE WHAT? DID YOU MIX IN THE POISON FOR THE MAINTENANCE MAN?
WELL...
TELL ME!
...BLOOD.

AS IN *BLOOD* BLOOD?
WITH LOTS OF SUGAR AND SPICES ADDED.
WHA--?! YOU...Y-YOU'RE SICK. WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
THERE'S NO JELLY IN ALL THE LAND.
I WAS DESPERATE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LET YOU DOWN.
THIS IS LETTING ME DOWN. IS THIS WHY YOU WERE AT THE HOSPITAL?
AND ACTING ALL WEIRD WHEN I CUT MY FINGER?
I WON'T LIE TO YOU...
GET OUT.

LET ME EXPLAIN.
I GUESS MY FATHER WAS *RIGHT* ABOUT YOU VAMPIRES.
OR MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONLY SICK ONE?
TO THINK I WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU.
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT YOU.
SOMEONE GET ME A WOODEN STAKE.
GET OUT!
ELENA, PLEASE.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

CLINK
GRUNT
CLANK
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


WHY, IF IT ISN'T COUNT WACK-ULA!
PUT MY STATUE DOWN AT ONCE.
CAN'T.
ORDERS CAME IN FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL TO REMOVE IT.
THIS CAN'T BE.
MAJORITY VOTE.
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TOOK CREDIT FOR YOUR CHEF'S CREATION.
THAT'S A LIE! PLEASE DON'T DESTROY IT.
I'LL PROVE IT. I'LL CONTEST THE RULING.
OUT OF THE WAY.

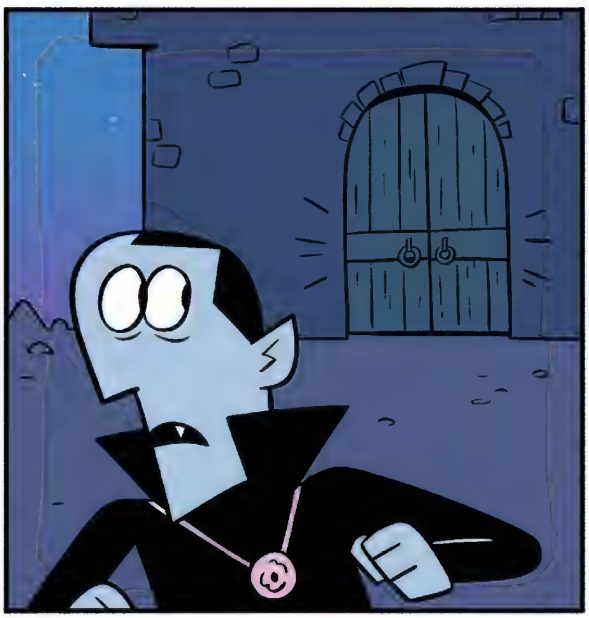
SLAM!
AHHH
WILL THIS NIGHT EVER END?!

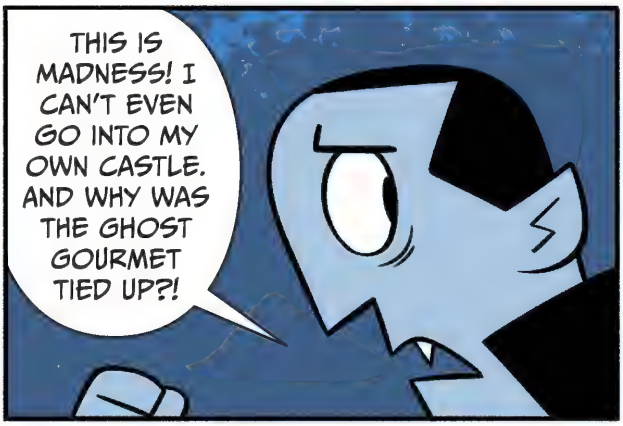
CHEF JELEU, WERE YOU WAITING UP FOR ME?
NEVER MIND. I'M TOO BEATEN DOWN TO CARE.

UMMM, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, CHEF?
CHEF? DID I ACCIDENTALLY HYPNOTIZE YOU BEFORE I LEFT OR SOMETHING?
EARTH TO CHEF?
COME IN, COUNT DRACULA.

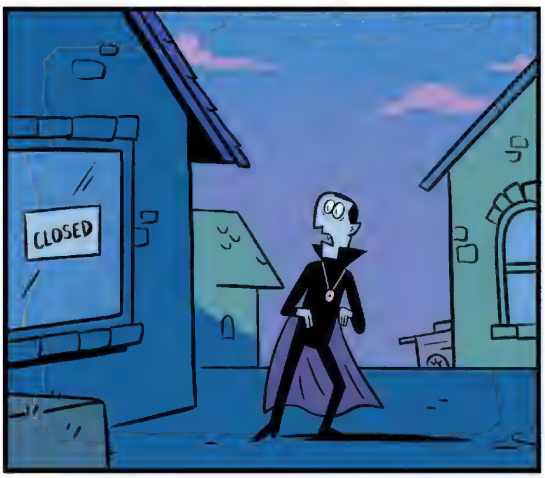
UH, BEFORE I COME IN, I'M GOING TO GRAB THE MAIL.

MIND CLOSING THE DOOR SO IT DOESN'T GET DRAFTY?




THIS IS MADNESS! I CAN'T EVEN GO INTO MY OWN CASTLE. AND WHY WAS THE GHOST GOURMET TIED UP?!

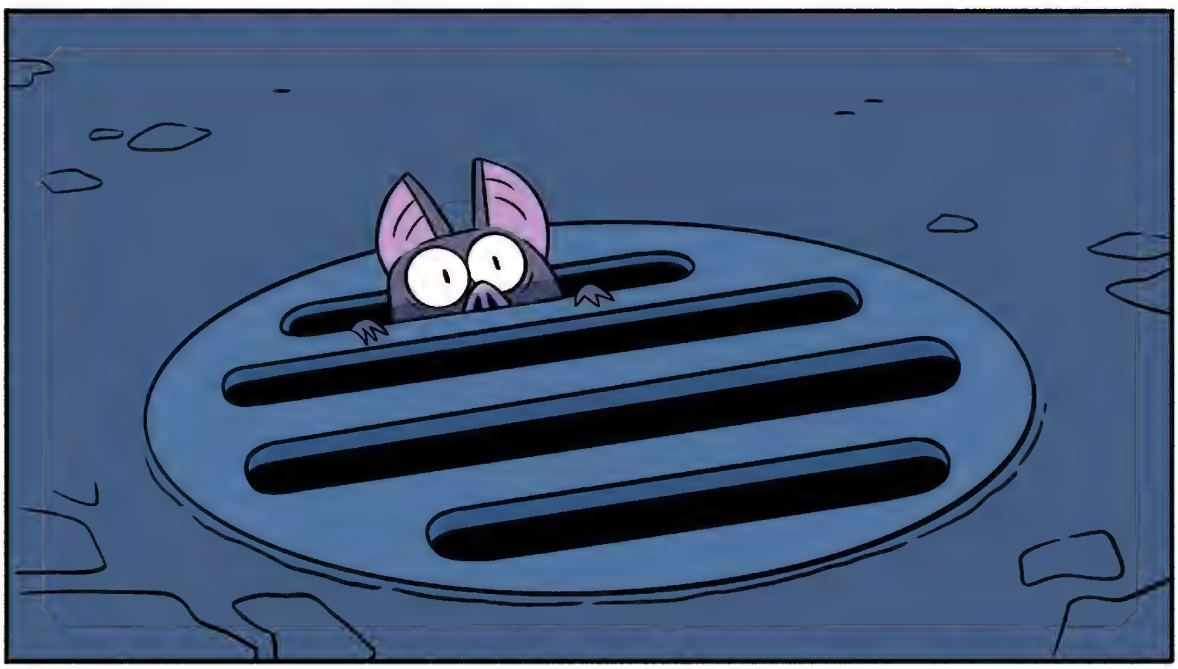
SWEET SIZZLING SOLAR FLARES...
...I NEED SOMEWHERE DARK TO HIDE BEFORE SUNRISE!

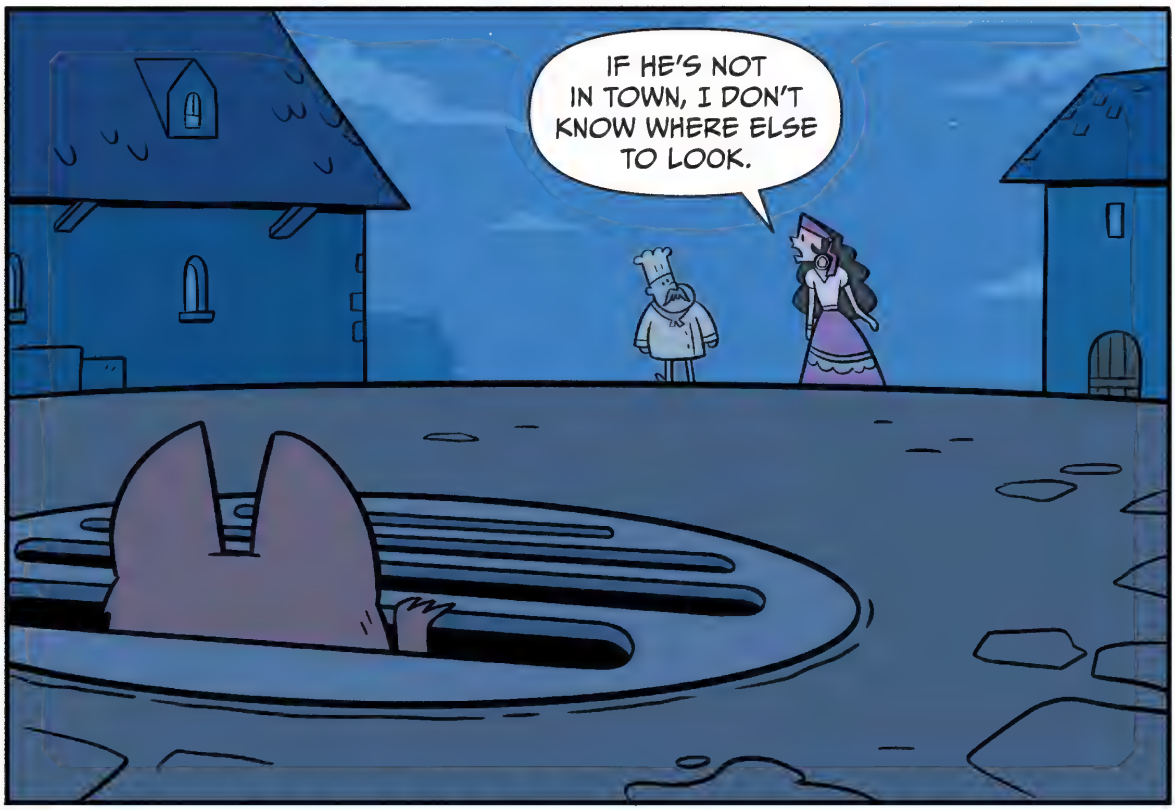

CLOSED

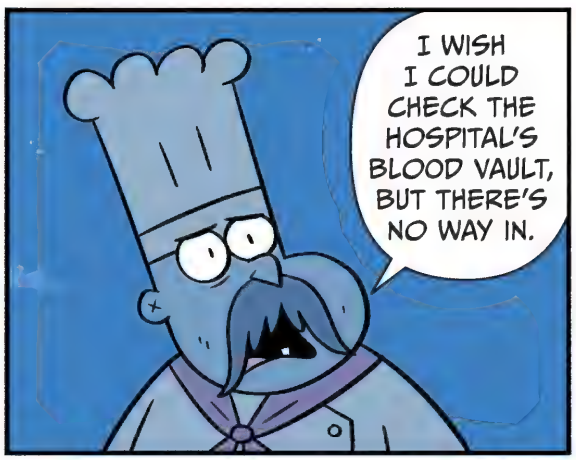
UGGHHHH.
IF ONLY MY DAD WERE HERE. HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO...

MASTER!

COUNTIE? PLEASE COME OUT IF YOU CAN HEAR US!



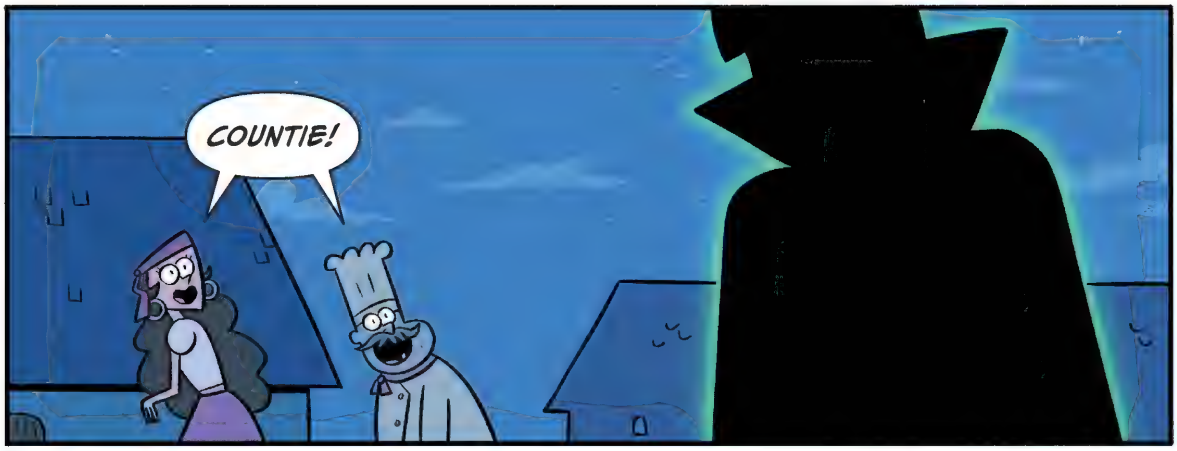

IF HE'S NOT IN TOWN, I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO LOOK.


I WISH I COULD CHECK THE HOSPITAL'S BLOOD VAULT, BUT THERE'S NO WAY IN.

STUPID!
WHY DIDN'T I HIDE THERE?

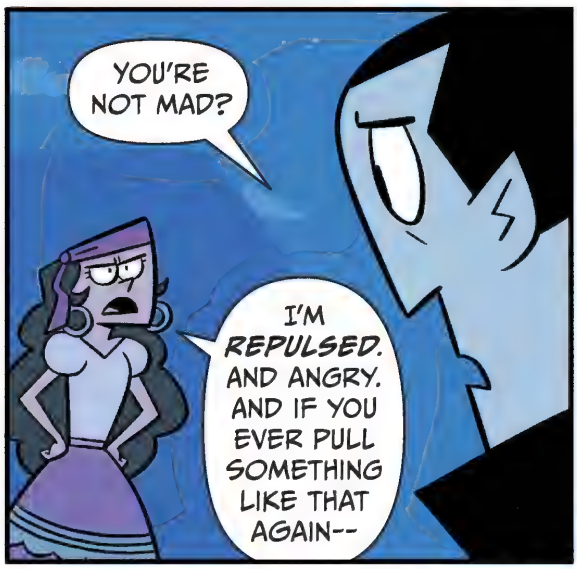
COUNTIE! I TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I SAID!

EVERYTHING?


COUNTIE!

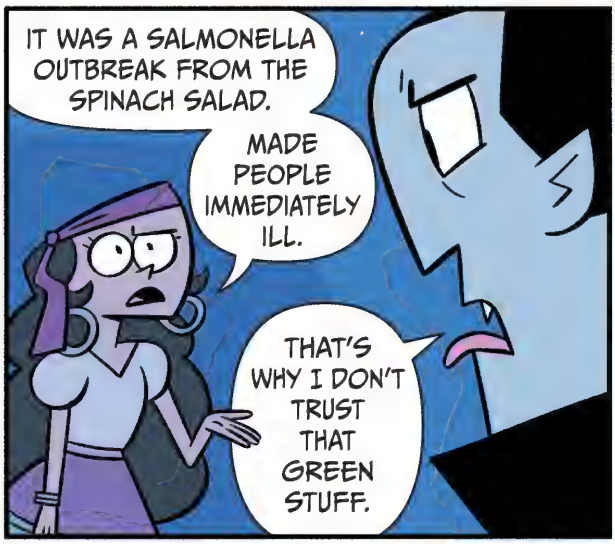
I'M SO HAPPY WE FOUND YOU!

I WAS WORRIED SICK, MASTER. IT'S ALMOST PAYDAY.


YOU'RE NOT MAD?
I'M *REPULSED.* AND ANGRY. AND IF YOU EVER PULL SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN--

NEVER AGAIN.

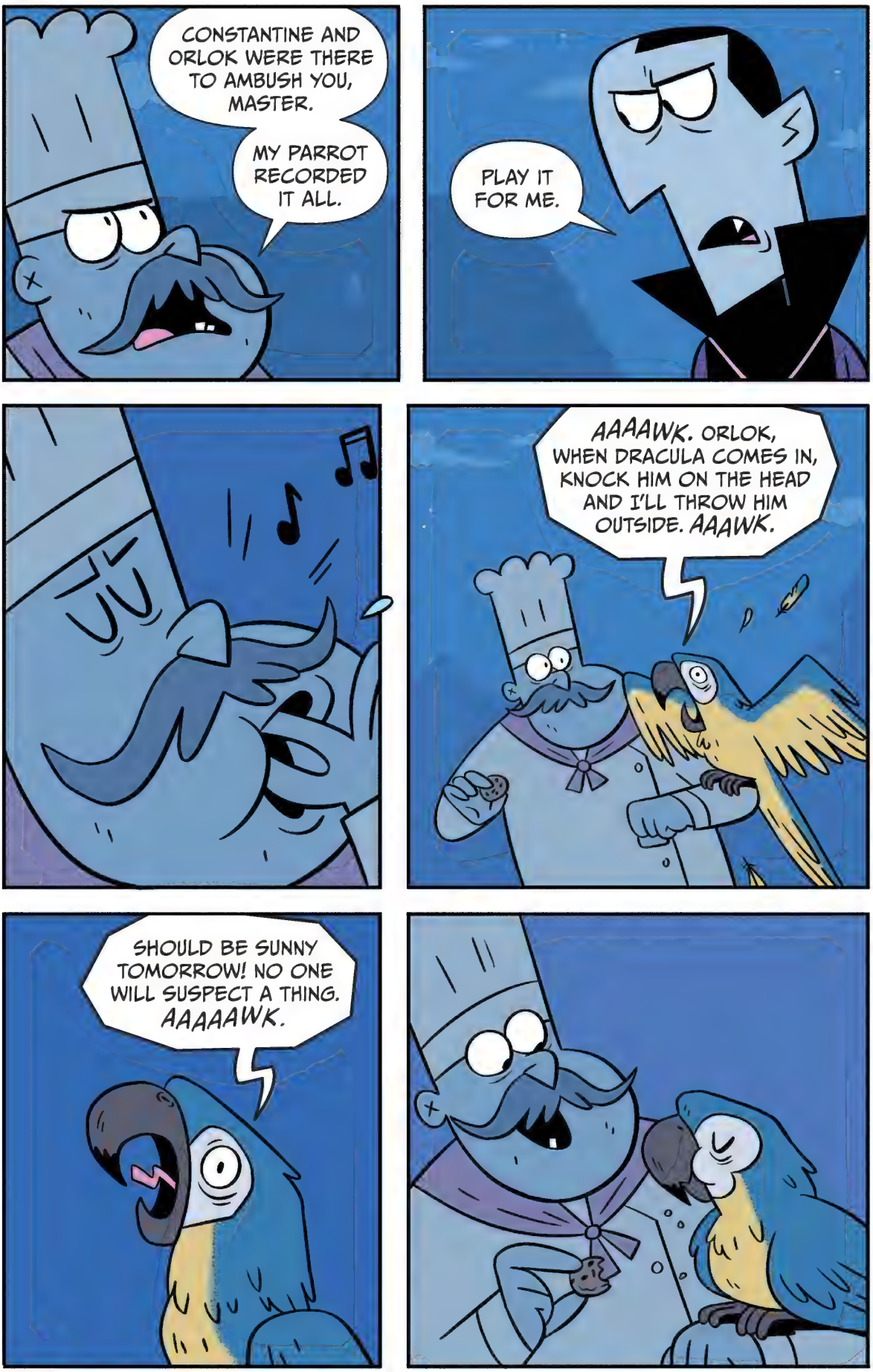
GOOD. THEN I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
PLUS, NO ONE ACTUALLY ATE THE DONUTS.
APPARENTLY VLAD CONFESSED TO TAKING A BAGFUL AND LEAVING.


IT WAS A SALMONELLA OUTBREAK FROM THE SPINACH SALAD.
MADE PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY ILL.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T TRUST THAT GREEN STUFF.

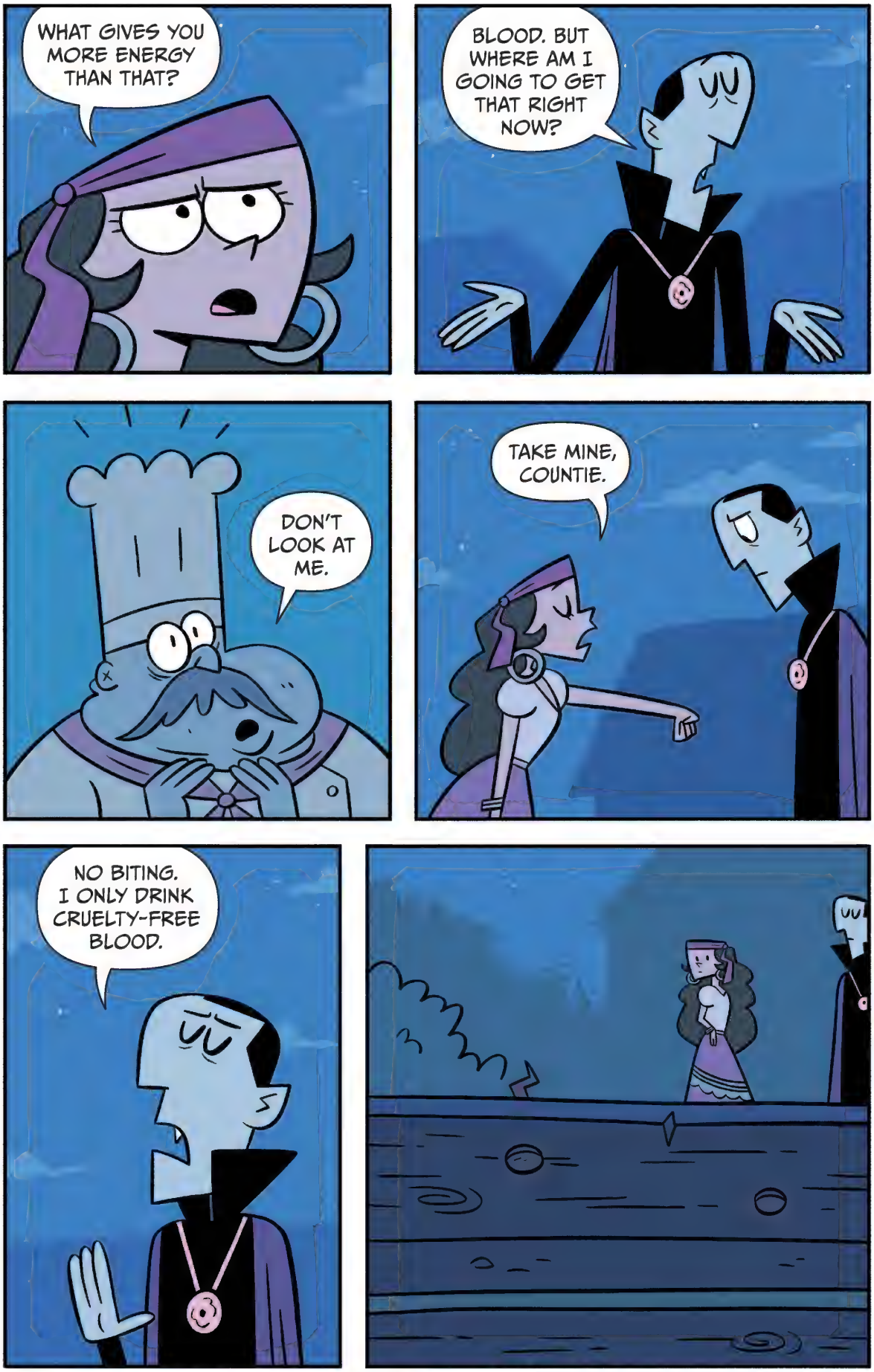
MAYBE MY FATHER WAS RIGHT...
...SOMEONE MIGHT BE MESSING WITH THE CROPS.

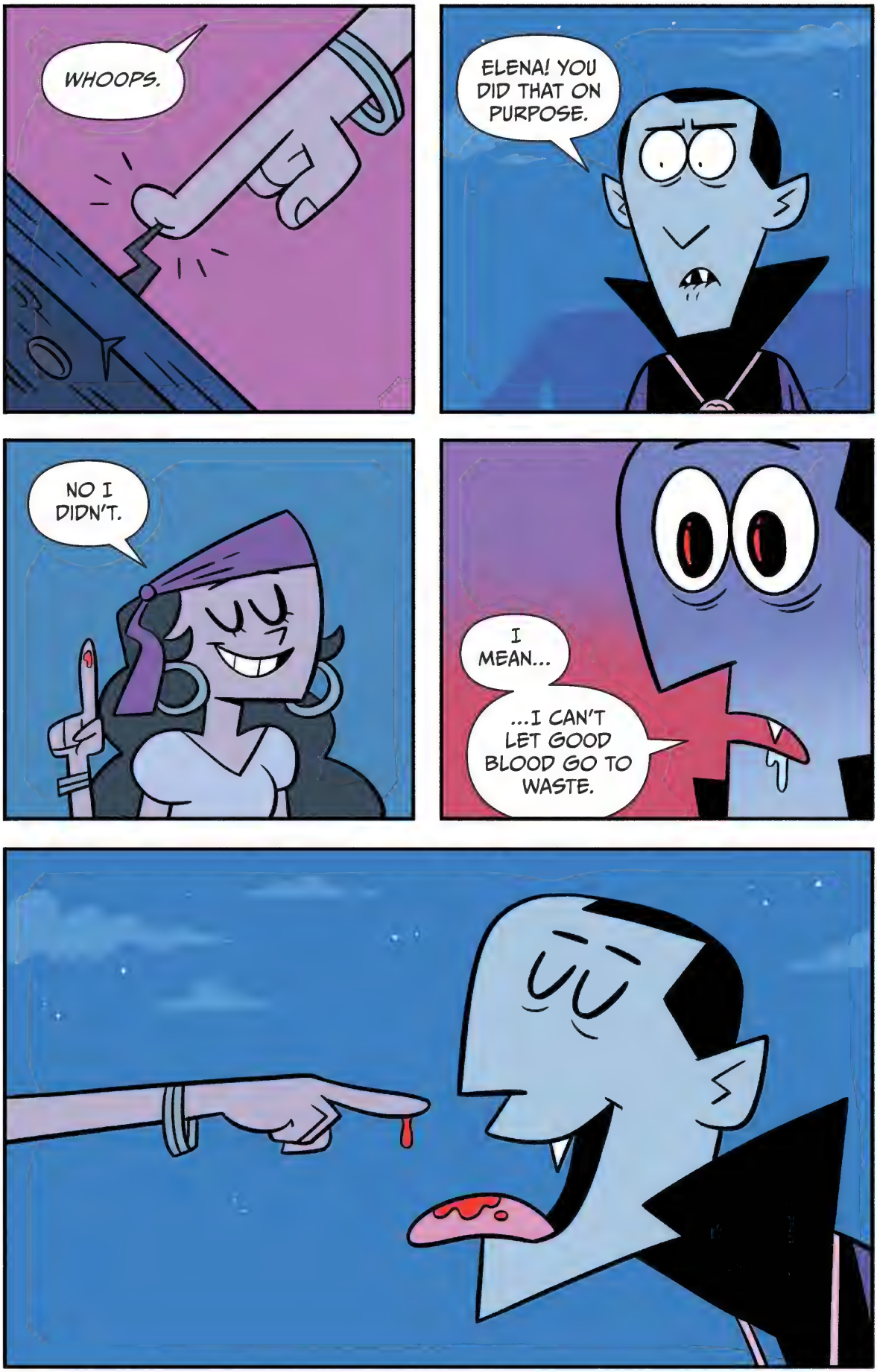
AND SOMEONE DEFINITELY MESSED WITH CHEF JELEU.
I FOUND HIM STANDING BY YOUR MAILBOX, HYPNOTIZED.

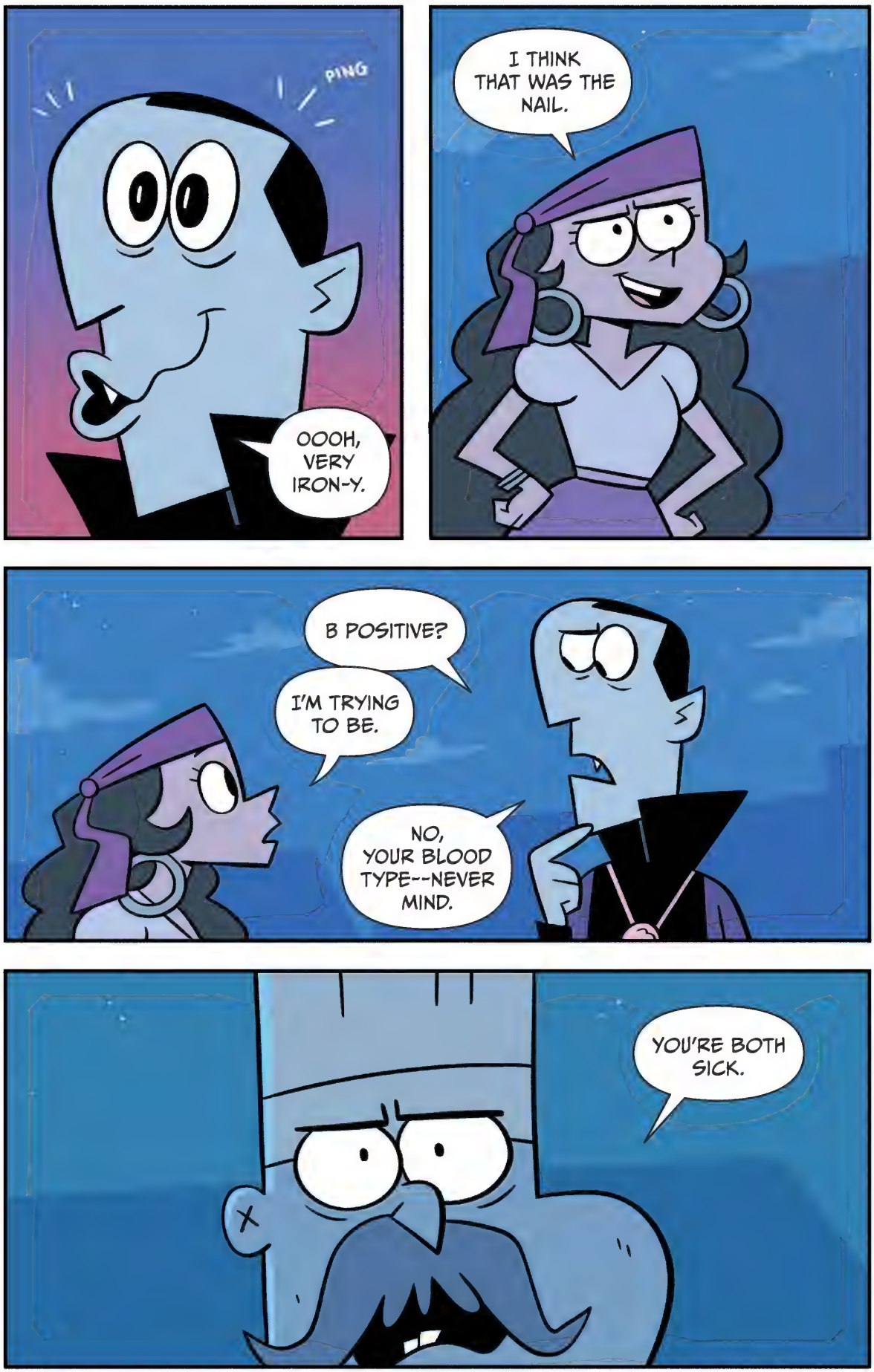
WHEN I WENT TO THE CASTLE, IT FELT LIKE A TRAP, SO I RAN.

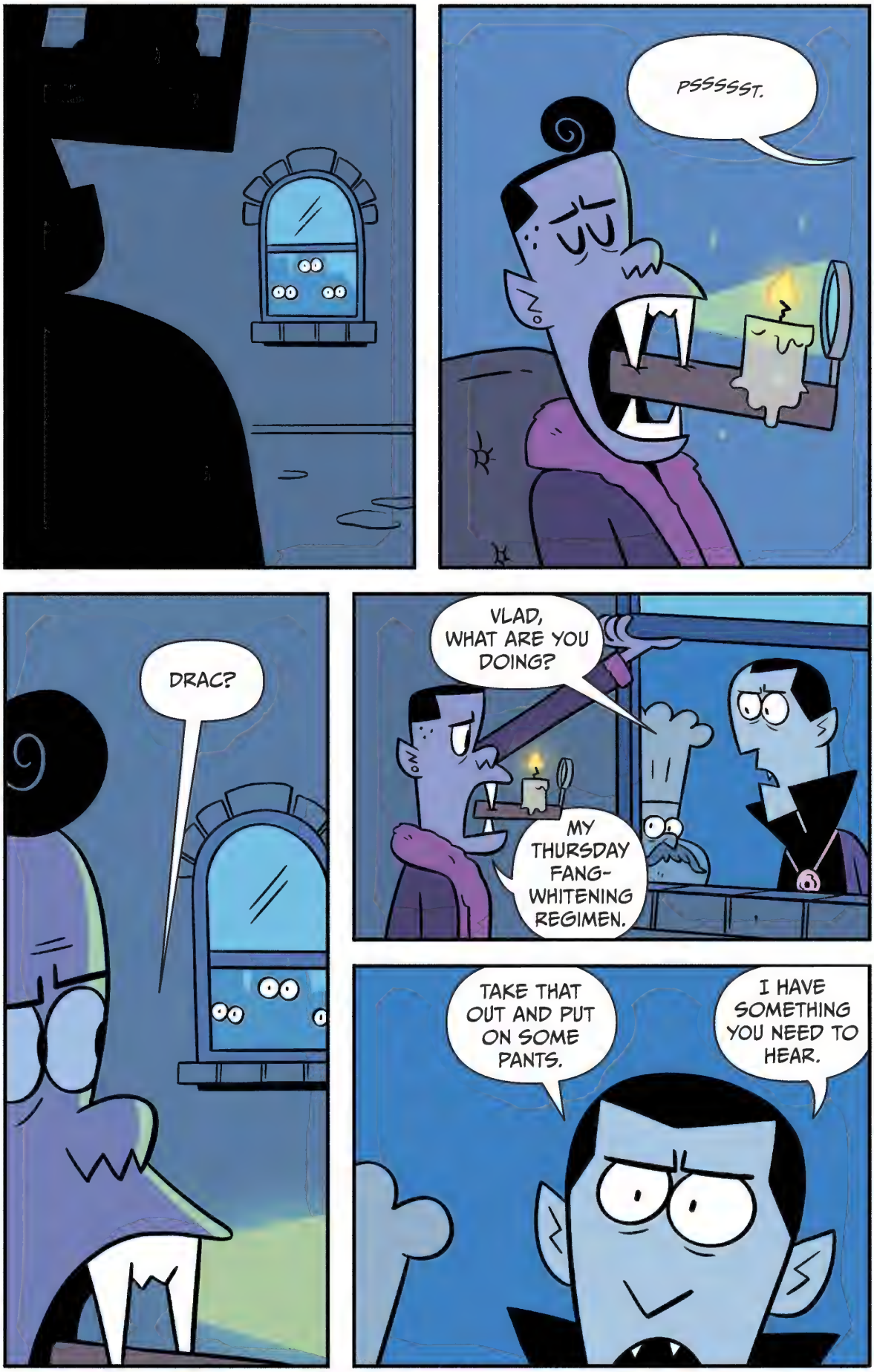

CONSTANTINE AND ORLOK WERE THERE TO AMBUSH YOU, MASTER.
MY PARROT RECORDED IT ALL.
PLAY IT FOR ME.
AAAAWK. ORLOK, WHEN DRACULA COMES IN, KNOCK HIM ON THE HEAD AND I'LL THROW HIM OUTSIDE. AAAWK.
SHOULD BE SUNNY TOMORROW! NO ONE WILL SUSPECT A THING. AAAAAWK.

THIS IS TERRIBLE.
WE NEED TO PLAY IT FOR THE OTHER VAMPIRES.
I COULD BE WALKING INTO ANOTHER TRAP.
WE NEED SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE TO HELP.
SOMEONE LIKE VLAD.
LET'S GO.
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY.
WHAT GIVES YOU ENERGY?
JELLY.


WHAT GIVES YOU MORE ENERGY THAN THAT?
BLOOD. BUT WHERE AM I GOING TO GET THAT RIGHT NOW?
DON'T LOOK AT ME.
TAKE MINE, COUNTIE.
NO BITING. I ONLY DRINK CRUELTY-FREE BLOOD.


WHOOPS.
ELENA! YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE.
NO I DIDN'T.
I MEAN...
...I CAN'T LET GOOD BLOOD GO TO WASTE.


PING
OOOH, VERY IRON-Y.
I THINK THAT WAS THE NAIL.
B POSITIVE?
I'M TRYING TO BE.
NO, YOUR BLOOD TYPE--NEVER MIND.
YOU'RE BOTH SICK.


PSSSSST.
DRAC?
VLAD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MY THURSDAY FANG-WHITENING REGIMEN.
TAKE THAT OUT AND PUT ON SOME PANTS.
I HAVE SOMETHING YOU NEED TO HEAR.

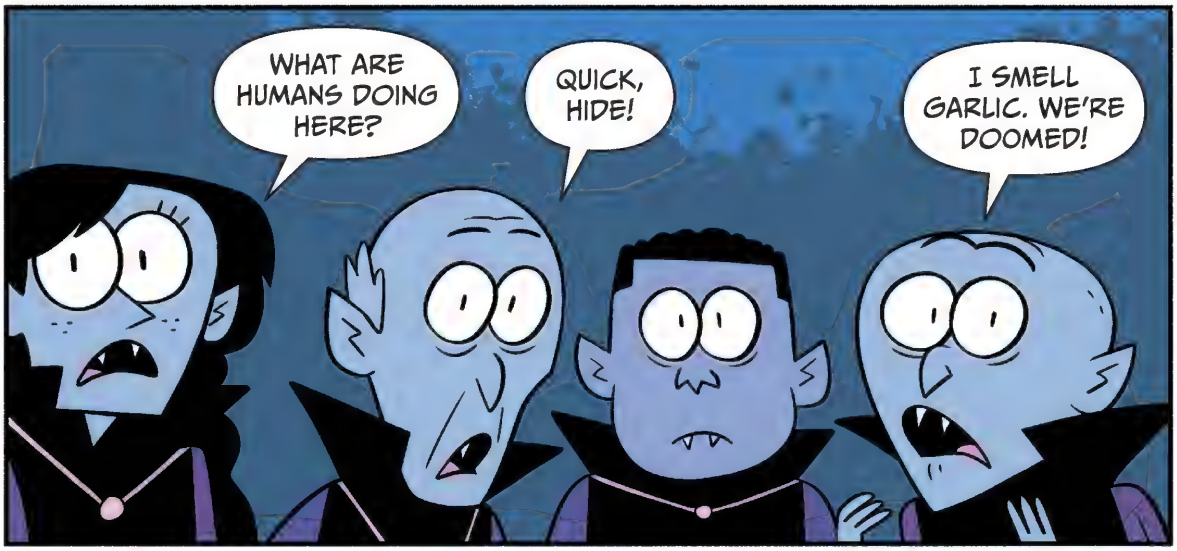
A few minutes and wardrobe changes later...
I HAD NO IDEA.
CASTLE
I THINK CONSTANTINE HAS EVERYONE FOOLED.
HOW CAN WE MEET WITH THE REST OF THE VAMPIRES WITHOUT CONSTANTINE KNOWING?
STAY HERE WHERE IT'S SAFE. I'LL WRANGLE THE GROUP AND FIGURE OUT A MEETING SPOT.
WHEREVER WE GO, CONSTANTINE WILL BE WATCHING.

THANKS FOR COMING.
SORRY WE HAD TO BE SO SECRETIVE.

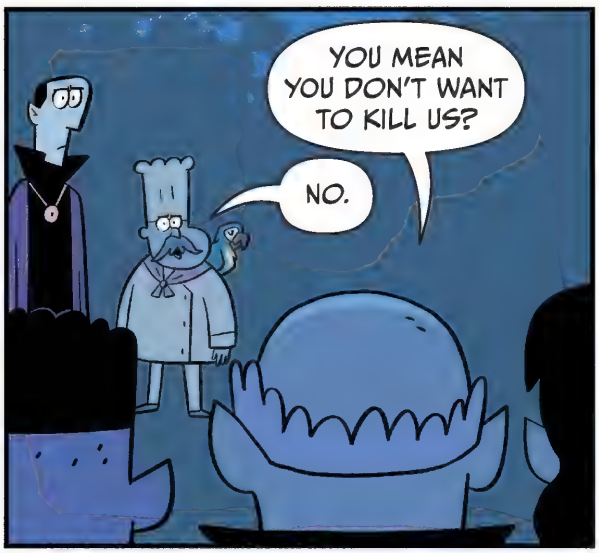
I VAS TOLD THERE VOULD BE PUNCH AND PASTRIES SERVED.
NOT NOW, GREGOR.

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO HEAR.

gasp
gasp
gasp


WHAT ARE HUMANS DOING HERE?
QUICK, HIDE!
I SMELL GARLIC. WE'RE DOOMED!

THE SOUP HAD SHALLOTS. NOT GARLIC.
OH, SHALLOTS ARE OKAY.
WE'RE NOT HERE TO HURT YOU.


YOU MEAN YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL US?
NO.

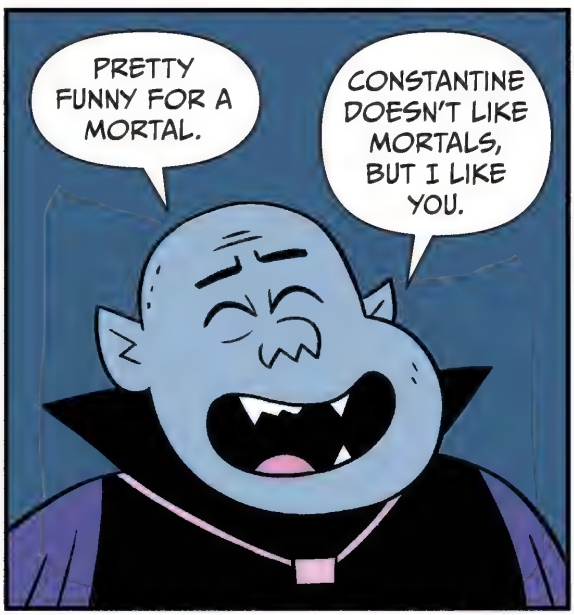
OR DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH OUR HEARTS?
NO.

OR BRAG THAT YOU CAN SUNTAN AT THE BEACH?
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

I DON'T KNOW IF CONSTANTINE WILL APPROVE OF THIS...
HE WON'T, BUT YOU HAVE TO HEAR THIS. LISTEN.
NO ONE WILL SUSPECT A THING. AAAAAWK.
HOW DARE HE TRY TO KILL A FELLOW VAMPIRE!
I VISH I VAS SURPRISED.
HE HAD IT OUT FOR YOU EVER SINCE HE RETURNED.

I THINK HE WAS JEALOUS OF YOUR DONUT FAME.
MORE LIKE JELLY-OUS.

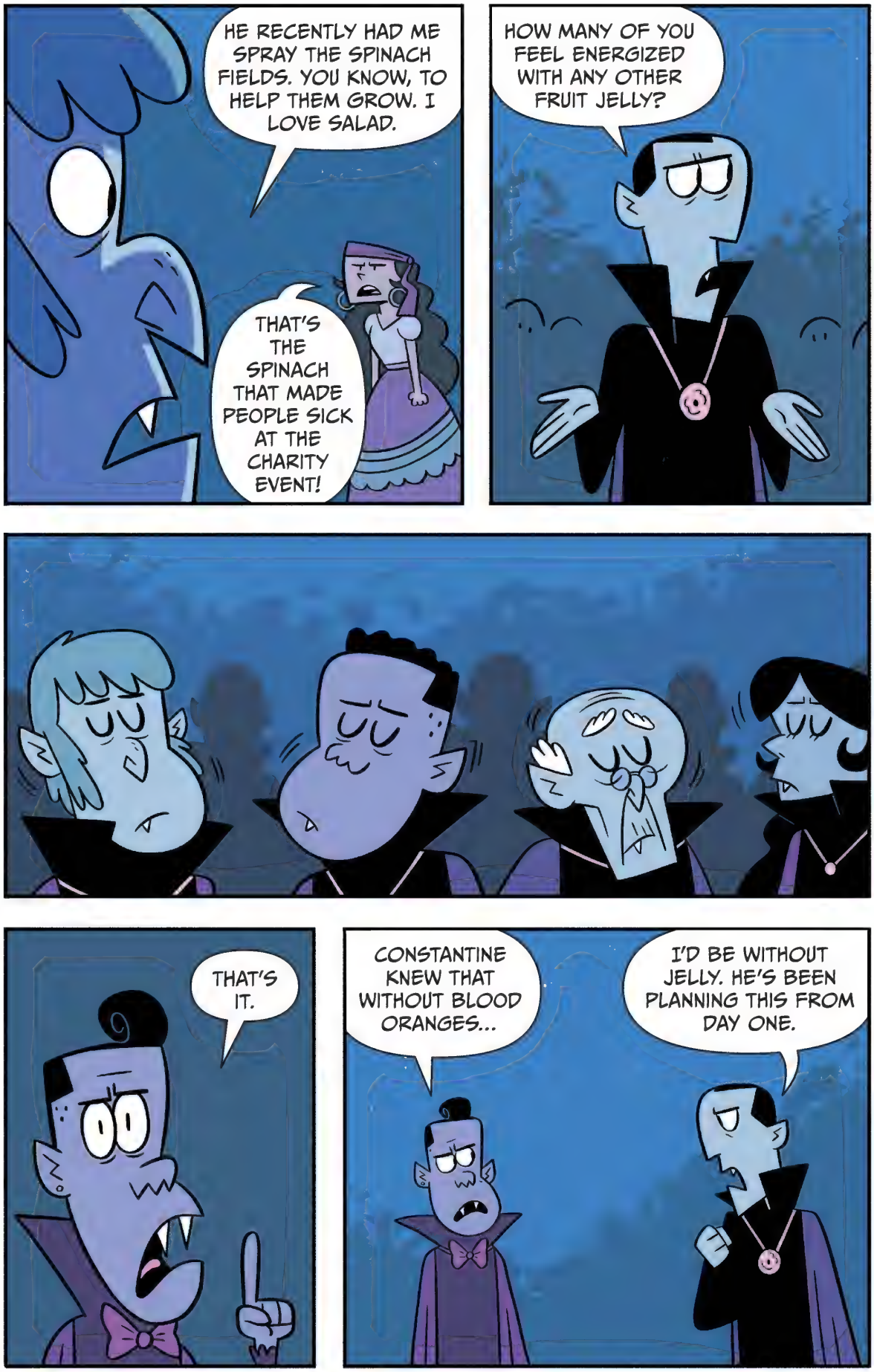
WAS THAT A JOKE?
YEAH, IT WAS.


PRETTY FUNNY FOR A MORTAL.
CONSTANTINE DOESN'T LIKE MORTALS, BUT I LIKE YOU.

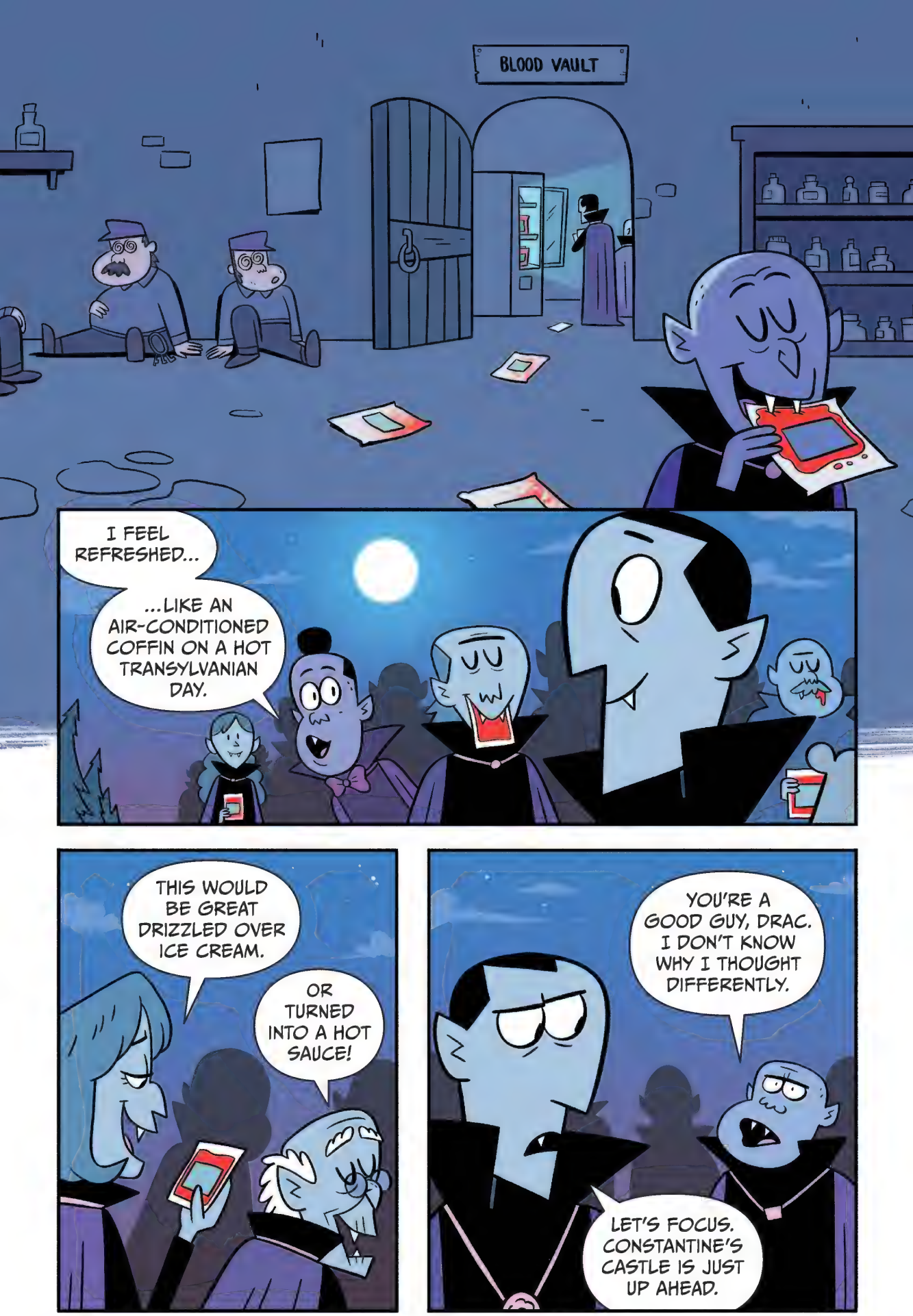
HE MUST HAVE KNOWN I WAS LEAVING AND PLANNED HIS COMEBACK.

AS SOON AS YOU LEFT, HE HIJACKED THE BRUNCH CLUB WITH NEW MEMBERS.
HE PROMISED TO KEEP US ENERGIZED WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.
THEN THE ANTI-HUMAN CHATTER STARTED.
AND NEW RULES AND ODD TASKS.

HE WOULDN'T LET US GO INTO TOWN ANYMORE.
HE HAD ME RAISE BABY MEALYBUGS IN THE SPRING. NOT SURE VHY.
AND HE HAD ME FERTILIZE THE FRUIT CROPS IN THE SUMMER.
WAIT!
THE BUGS. THE FERTILIZER...
...THAT MUST BE WHAT KILLED THE BLOOD ORANGE CROPS.
FATHER WAS RIGHT!


HE RECENTLY HAD ME SPRAY THE SPINACH FIELDS. YOU KNOW, TO HELP THEM GROW. I LOVE SALAD.
THAT'S THE SPINACH THAT MADE PEOPLE SICK AT THE CHARITY EVENT!
HOW MANY OF YOU FEEL ENERGIZED WITH ANY OTHER FRUIT JELLY?
THAT'S IT.
CONSTANTINE KNEW THAT WITHOUT BLOOD ORANGES...
I'D BE WITHOUT JELLY. HE'S BEEN PLANNING THIS FROM DAY ONE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S ALWAYS *BURSTING* WITH ENERGY.
I BET HE STOLE THE JELLY RESERVES FROM YOUR CASTLE.
I SAY WE SNEAK INTO HIS CASTLE AND FIND OUT.
BE CAREFUL, COUNT DRACULA.
WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE HE'S CAPABLE OF.
I COULD REALLY USE A BOOST BEFORE SUCH AN ADVENTURE.
I KNOW WHERE WE CAN FILL UP.
BRING YOUR MEDALLIONS.


BLOOD VAULT
I FEEL REFRESHED...
...LIKE AN AIR-CONDITIONED COFFIN ON A HOT TRANSYLVANIAN DAY.
THIS WOULD BE GREAT DRIZZLED OVER ICE CREAM.
OR TURNED INTO A HOT SAUCE!
YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, DRAC. I DON'T KNOW WHY I THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY.
LET'S FOCUS. CONSTANTINE'S CASTLE IS JUST UP AHEAD.

HOW DO WE GET IN?
WE CAN'T KNOCK ON THE FRONT DOOR.

MAYBE THERE'S A BACK DOOR?
DO VE SCALE THE VALL?

CAN'T YOU ALL TURN INTO BATS AND FLY THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW?

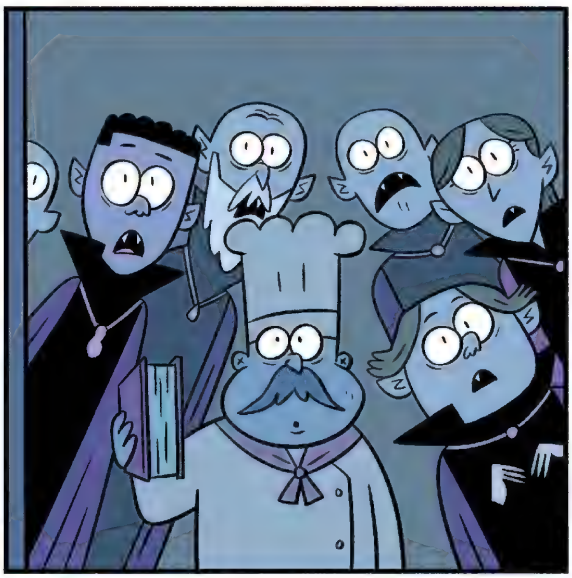
OH YEAH.

THROW DOWN A ROPE SO CHEF AND I CAN CLIMB UP.

I DON'T SEE A HINT OF JELLY ANYWHERE.
KEEP LOOKING...
...MAYBE THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE SOMEWHERE...

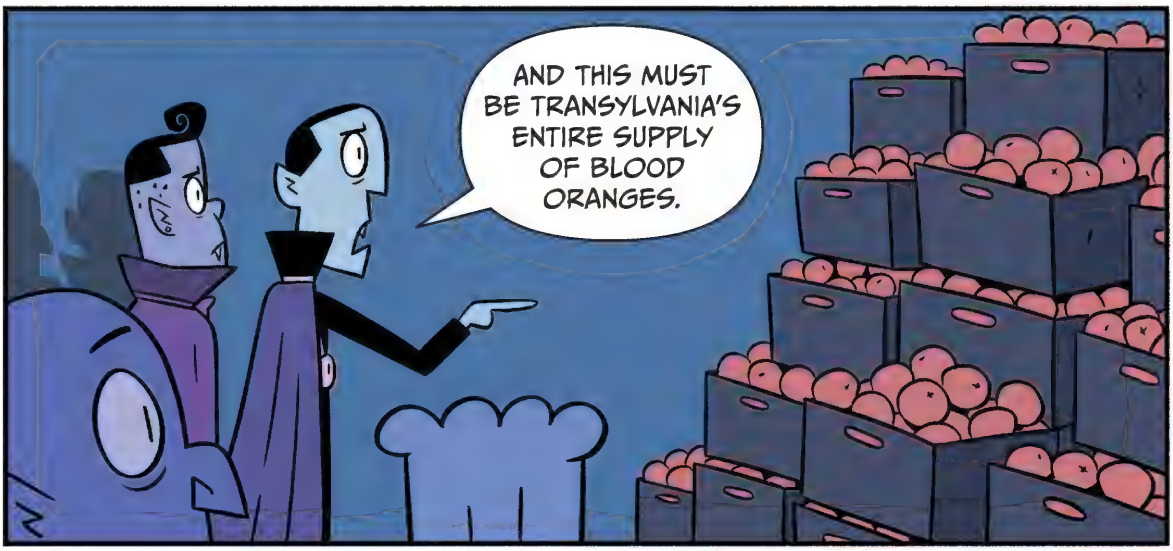
OH RIGHT, LIKE I PULL THIS BOOK OUT AND IT'S MAGICALLY GOING TO...
VINDICATED

CREEEAK



WELL, I'LL BE A WEREWOLF'S UNCLE!

MY MISSING JELLY!


AND THIS MUST BE TRANSYLVANIA'S ENTIRE SUPPLY OF BLOOD ORANGES.

ORLOK?

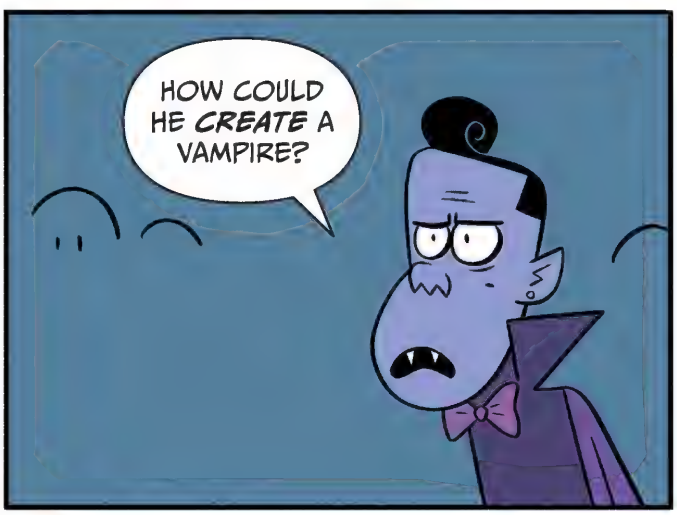
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I MIGHT ASK *YOU* THE SAME THING.

OH NO, THIS IS BAD. REAL BAD...

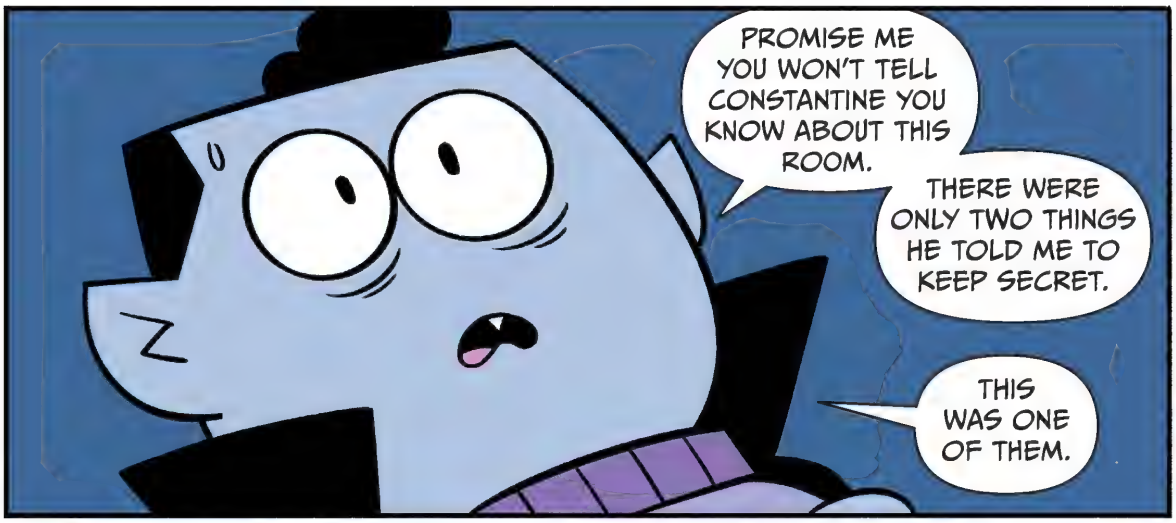
WHAT IS ALL THIS, ORLOK?
MASTER CONSTANTINE ALLOWS ME TO REFUEL IN HERE. YOU CAN HAVE SOME IF YOU DON'T TELL HIM.

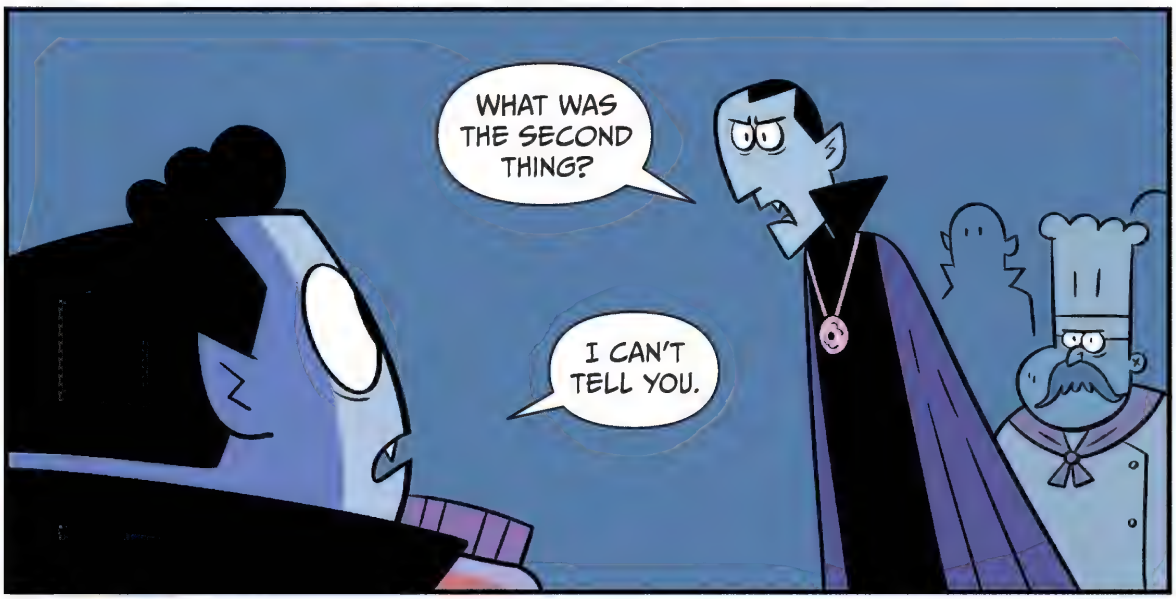
WHY DO YOU CALL HIM MASTER? AREN'T WE ALL VAMPIRES?

HE'S MY CREATOR. OR THAT'S WHAT HE TELLS ME. I'M NOT QUITE SURE.


HOW COULD HE *CREATE* A VAMPIRE?

WAIT, AREN'T YOU THE MISSING CASTLE REPAIR GUY FROM THE NEWSPAPER?
HOW ARE YOU A VAMPIRE NOW?
AHHH!
A MORTAL!
IT'S OKAY, ORLOK.
SHE'S NOT GOING TO HARM YOU.
WILL YOU TRY TO DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH MY HEART?
NO.
BRAG THAT YOU CAN EAT GARLIC BREAD?
WHY DO YOU ALL THINK I WANT TO BRAG ABOUT EVERYTHING?
SHE IS FINE, ORLOK.


PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL CONSTANTINE YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS ROOM.
THERE WERE ONLY TWO THINGS HE TOLD ME TO KEEP SECRET.
THIS WAS ONE OF THEM.


WHAT WAS THE SECOND THING?
I CAN'T TELL YOU.

HELP! CAN ANYONE HEAR US?
HELP US!
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THOSE SCREAMS?
THAT'S MASTER'S PERSONAL REFUEL ROOM. BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THAT.
I'M SWORN TO SECRECY.

LET'S GO!

HELP!
HOORAY, WE'RE SAVED!
NOPE, I WAS WRONG. WE'RE DOOMED.

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT HERE TO HARM YOU.
ALTHOUGH, VE'D ACCEPT ANY AND ALL BLOOD DONATIONS.

CONSTANTINE'S BEEN TAKING ONE OF US AT A TIME, AND AFTER WE HEAR A HORRIBLE SCREAM...
...WE NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN.
HE'S A BLOOD SUCKER!

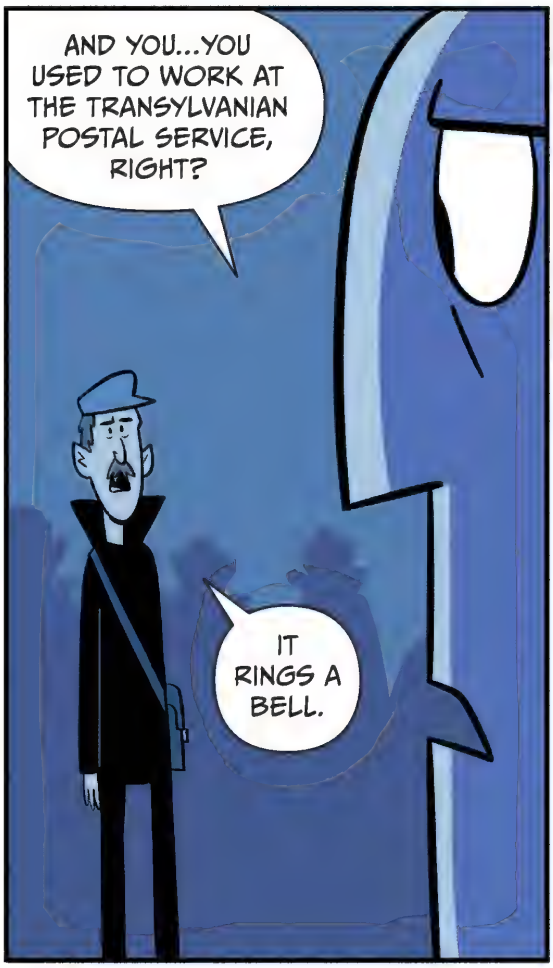
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES...AARON, IS THAT YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER AFTER CONSTANTINE TOOK YOU AWAY THREE WEEKS AGO.

I GO BY ARLON NOW. IT'S SPOOKIER.
WAIT A MINUTE... LET ME SEE YOUR NECK.

THAT'S WHERE ALL THE NEW VAMPIRES CAME FROM!

WHEN CONSTANTINE SUCKED YOUR BLOOD, YOU MUST HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO VAMPIRES.
NOW YOU'RE UNDEAD, TOO?
I GUESS SO?

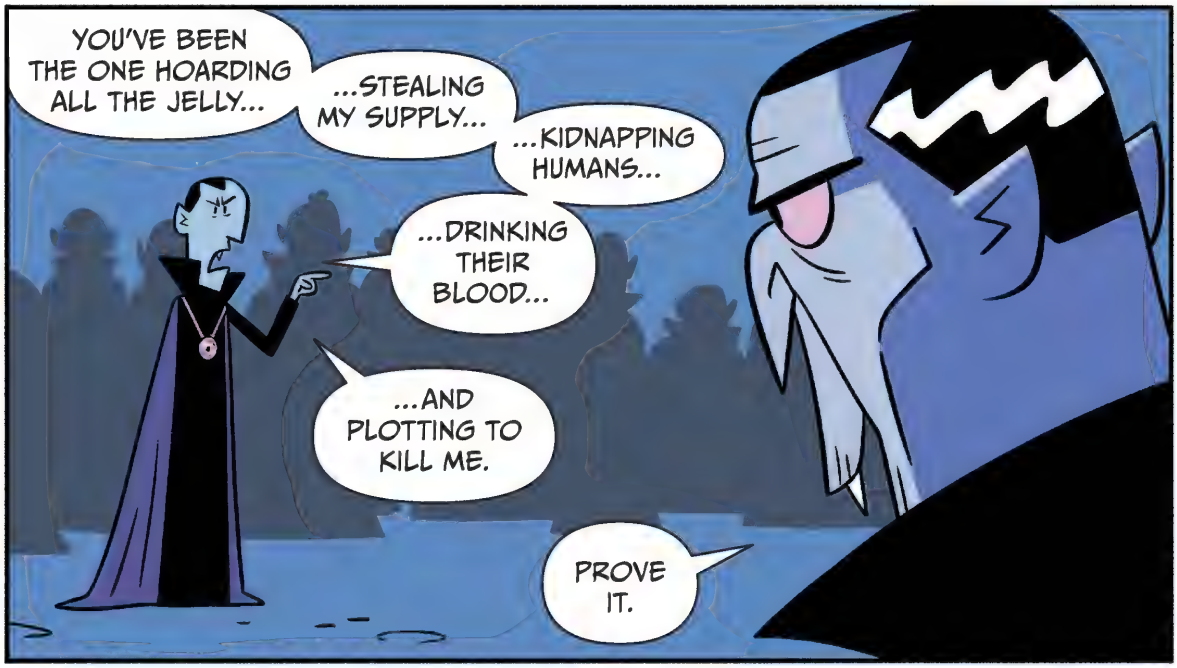
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH BEFORE I BECAME A VAMPIRE.


AND YOU...YOU USED TO WORK AT THE TRANSYLVANIAN POSTAL SERVICE, RIGHT?
IT RINGS A BELL.

YOU ATE THE CRATE OF DONUTS I SENT HOME TO NOURISH THE TOWN.
I WISH I HAD A WHOLE CRATE TO MYSELF...
BUT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A BODY THAT ATE A WHOLE CRATE?

MIGHT THIS BE THE CRATE YOU SENT HERE?
CONSTANTINE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT, STOLE THE CRATE...
...AND TURNED YOU INTO A VAMPIRE, TOO!
BINGO.
LET'S RELEASE THE HUMANS.
STOMP STOMP
WAIT!
I HEAR FOOTSTEPS?

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS COLD?
I COULD GO FOR A CHILLED BEVERAGE.
WHAT THE...?!
DON'T EXPECT BLOODSHED TONIGHT.
BLOOD-SHED?
I WAS HOPING FOR A BLOOD BATH.
THAT ACTUALLY SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL.
NOT TONIGHT, CONSTANTINE.


YOU'VE BEEN THE ONE HOARDING ALL THE JELLY...
...STEALING MY SUPPLY...
...KIDNAPPING HUMANS...
...DRINKING THEIR BLOOD...
...AND PLOTTING TO KILL ME.
PROVE IT.

THE HUMANS ARE HERE...
...AND THE JELLY IS DOWN THE HALL.

OOOH, YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART.

ARLON, YOU WOULDN'T TURN AGAINST ME, WOULD YOU?

IF YOU TRIED DESTROYING COUNT DRACULA...
...YOU COULD DO THE SAME TO ME.

THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T WANT US MINGLING WITH HUMANS.
YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THEIR BLOOD FIRST AND WANTED TO KEEP IT A SECRET SO YOU COULD STAY ENERGIZED WHILE EVERYONE SUFFERED.

PUT DOWN THE STRAW.
RETRACT YOUR FANGS.
YOU'RE DONE.

I SHOULD HAVE DONE AWAY WITH YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

TACKLE HIM, GREGOR!

GET HIM!
HE CAN'T ESCAPE.

OH, SORRY...
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
SOME DADS GIVE THEIR DAUGHTERS KNIVES FOR PROTECTION.
MINE GIFTED ME THIS AND SAID IT WOULD SAVE ME ONE DAY.

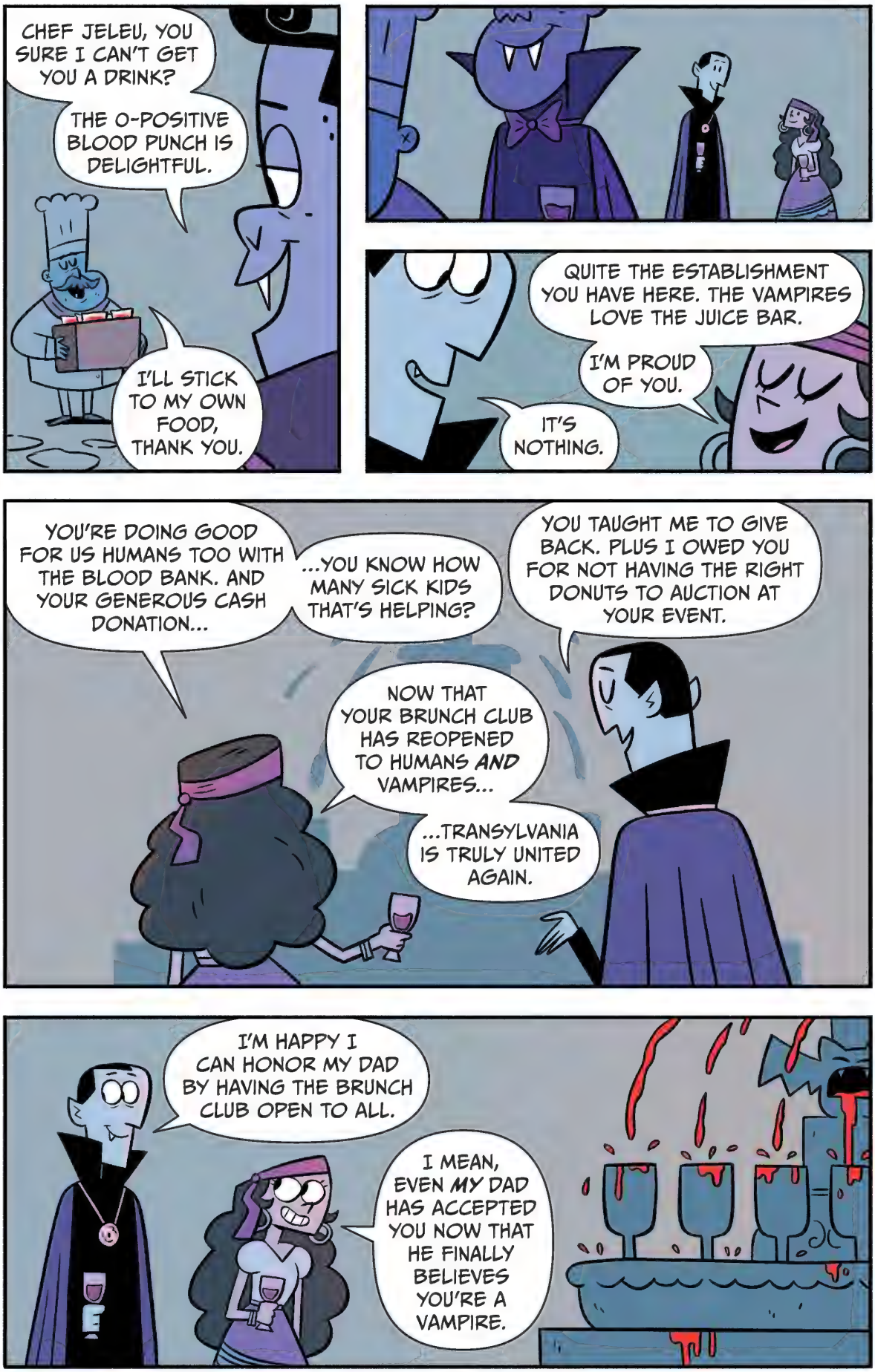
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM, GANG?
THE DISCIPLINE DUNGEON!
THROW HIM IN THE SUNLIGHT.
BANISH HIM FROM TRANSYLVANIA... AGAIN.
NO, I'LL DO ANYTHING. HAVE MERCY ON ME.
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.
AHEM.
CAN YOU LET US OUT NOW?

One Month Later
I'VE GOT ANOTHER BATCH, ORLOK.
RIGHT AWAY, CHEF.
I'M GOING ON BREAK.
BLOOD DONATION

WHY DON'T YOU COLLECT THE BLOOD BAGS ONCE PEOPLE ARE DONE DONATING?
ONE BAG THIS WEEK.
DROP IT IN THE BOX.
SERVICE WITH A SMILE, CONSTANTINE!
BLOOD DONATION
THANK YOU FOR DONATING.
WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR COMPLI-MENTARY JELLY DONUT?
BLOOD DONATION
IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY REASON I DONATE.

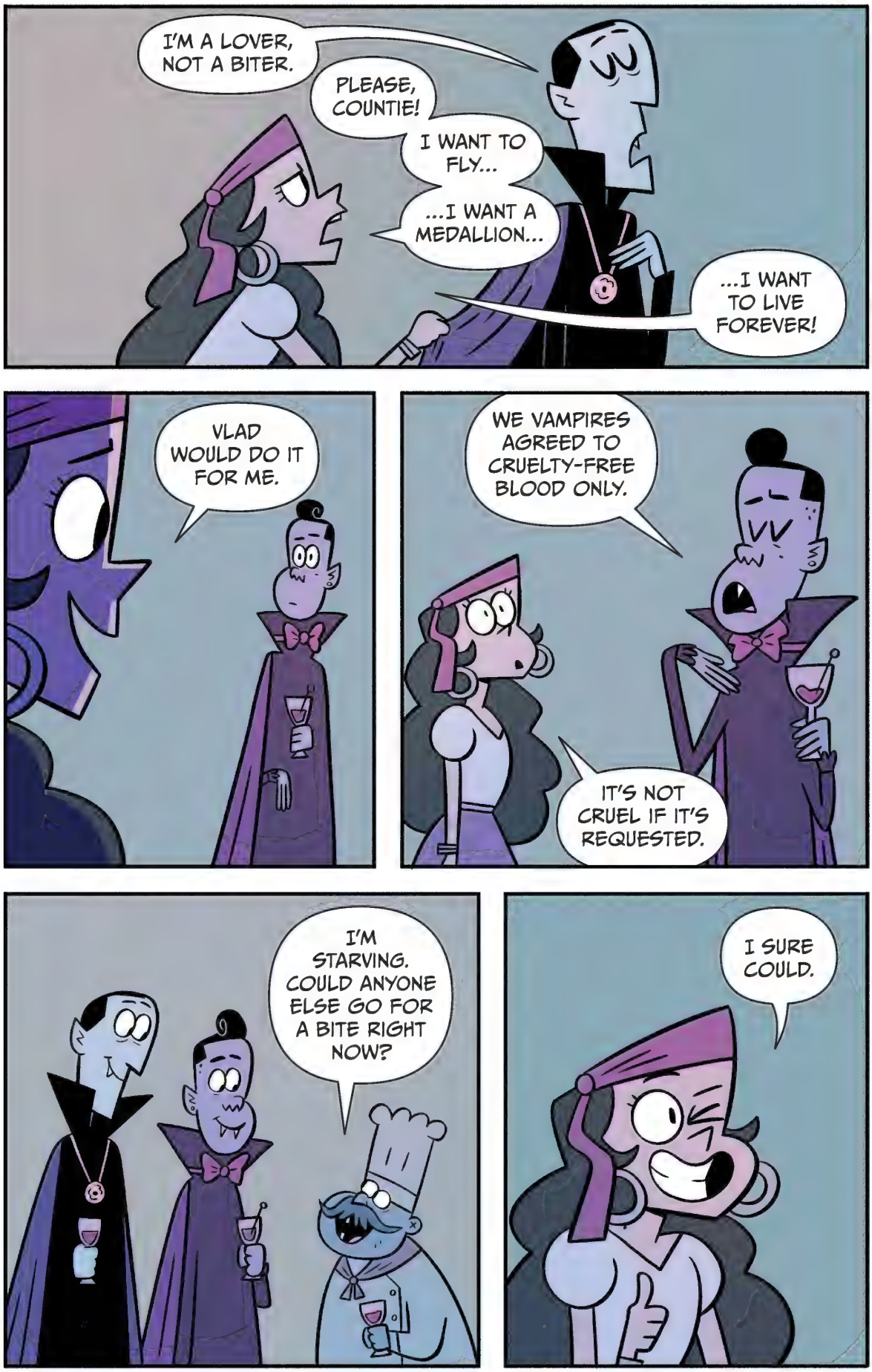
NICE TO SEE VAMPIRES DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY.
GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU ALL.
WOULD YOU LIKE A STICKER?
BLOOD STUD
PAT PAT
THANK YOU, ORLOK. SUCH A HARD WORKER.
YOU'RE SUCH A SUCK-UP.
BLOOD DONATION
I CAN'T HELP IT, THESE HUMANS LIKE ME!

I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS BOX TO THE BACK. TRY TO KEEP THE LINE MOVING.
ANOTHER BUSY EVENING, MASTER!
AMAZING. PUT HALF THE BAGS ON THE TRUCK TO GET DONATED AND DELIVERED TO THE HOSPITAL.
AND VLAD...
...CAN YOU TAKE THE OTHER HALF BACK TO GREGOR AT THE JUICE BAR?
I LOVE HOW HUMANS AND VAMPIRES ARE SUPPORTING EACH OTHER.
WE HAVE SUCH A GENEROUS AND DELICIOUS COMMUNITY.


CHEF JELEU, YOU SURE I CAN'T GET YOU A DRINK?
THE O-POSITIVE BLOOD PUNCH IS DELIGHTFUL.
I'LL STICK TO MY OWN FOOD, THANK YOU.
QUITE THE ESTABLISHMENT YOU HAVE HERE. THE VAMPIRES LOVE THE JUICE BAR.
I'M PROUD OF YOU.
IT'S NOTHING.
YOU'RE DOING GOOD FOR US HUMANS TOO WITH THE BLOOD BANK. AND YOUR GENEROUS CASH DONATION...
...YOU KNOW HOW MANY SICK KIDS THAT'S HELPING?
YOU TAUGHT ME TO GIVE BACK. PLUS I OWED YOU FOR NOT HAVING THE RIGHT DONUTS TO AUCTION AT YOUR EVENT.
NOW THAT YOUR BRUNCH CLUB HAS REOPENED TO HUMANS *AND* VAMPIRES...
...TRANSYLVANIA IS TRULY UNITED AGAIN.
I'M HAPPY I CAN HONOR MY DAD BY HAVING THE BRUNCH CLUB OPEN TO ALL.
I MEAN, EVEN *MY* DAD HAS ACCEPTED YOU NOW THAT HE FINALLY BELIEVES YOU'RE A VAMPIRE.

ELENA, YOU'RE THE REASON I'M STILL HERE. YOU BELIEVED IN ME.
YOU SAVED ME.
HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU?
WELL, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK...
COUNT DRACULA, IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
AREN'T YOU THE GHOST GOURMET?
THAT FOODIE JUDGE?
NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET.

THOUGH IF I WAS A JUDGE, I WOULD GIVE THIS SHIRLEY TIMPLE DRINK THREE STARS.
DON'T YOU MEAN *SHIRLEY TEMPLE?*
NO, THIS GIRL SHIRLEY TIMPLE DONATED BLOOD LAST WEEK. MIX IT WITH LEMON-LIME SODA AND IT'S HEAVENLY.
I'M SORRY, YOU WERE SAYING?
YOU KNOW HOW I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BECOME A VAMPIRE, RIGHT?
YEAH.
AND NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO CHANGE PEOPLE, I WAS THINKING...
MAYBE YOU CAN CHANGE ME?


I'M A LOVER, NOT A BITER.
PLEASE, COUNTIE!
I WANT TO FLY...
...I WANT A MEDALLION...
...I WANT TO LIVE FOREVER!
VLAD WOULD DO IT FOR ME.
WE VAMPIRES AGREED TO CRUELTY-FREE BLOOD ONLY.
IT'S NOT CRUEL IF IT'S REQUESTED.
I'M STARVING. COULD ANYONE ELSE GO FOR A BITE RIGHT NOW?
I SURE COULD.

LET'S ENJOY THE NIGHT.
THEN I PROMISE TO TALK IT THROUGH WITH YOU LATER.
GREGOR, WILL YOU LOCK UP AT CLOSING TIME?
YOU GOT IT, BOSS.
I GUESS WE HAVE A VAMPIRE-WEREWOLF IN THE MIX.
IS THERE ANYONE CONSTANTINE DIDN'T BITE?
The End.

BONUS CONTENT

ASK A GROWN-UP FOR HELP BEFORE STARTING THESE RECIPES!

BLACKBIRD DOUGHNUTS'® BLOOD ORANGE JELLY

BLOOD ORANGE JELLY

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups of blood orange juice (the juice of about 5–7 blood oranges)

½ tbsp lemon juice (15g)

¾ cup sugar (175g)

2 tbsp pectin (15g)

NOTE:

Pre-squeezed juice will work perfectly fine for this recipe. If you choose to squeeze your own juice, strain to remove any pulp.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine fruit juices and add to a saucepan on medium-high heat.
2. As the juice reaches a simmer, add the sugar and pectin and whisk until fully dissolved and there are no clumps.
3. Continue whisking to fully incorporate all ingredients. Once it reaches a boil, turn the temperature down and simmer for about three minutes while you continue to whisk.
4. Remove from heat and transfer to a heat-safe container.
5. Place in the fridge until fully cooled, then serve. If you prefer a thicker jelly, use more pectin.

"Bloodvarian Cream" Donut Sandwiches (next page)

"BLOODVARIAN CREAM" DONUT SANDWICHES

by Dina Deleasa-Gonsar, author of *At the Kitchen Sink*

CHOCOLATE CAKE DONUTS

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups flour

½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

½ tsp cinnamon

2 tbsp melted unsalted butter

¾ cups granulated sugar

¼ cup brown sugar

1 tbsp vegetable oil

¼ cup brewed coffee, cooled

1 ½ tsp vanilla extract

¾ cup whole milk

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and prepare a donut pan by greasing it well.
2. In a large bowl sift together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. If you do not have a sifter, whisking gently will help combine the dry ingredients.
3. In a medium size bowl add the butter, both sugars, vegetable oil, coffee, and vanilla extract. Whisk the ingredients together until uniform.
4. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients, stirring together until it begins to combine. Then add in your milk ¼ a cup at a time, stirring until combined.
5. Spoon the batter into the cavities of the prepared donut pan until each is about halfway full. About 2 tbsps. of batter per donut.
6. Bake in the oven for about 12 minutes, until cooked through and a toothpick comes out clean.
7. Allow donuts to cool completely.

"BLOODVARIAN CREAM"

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup mascarpone cheese

½ cup plus 2 tbsp confectioners' sugar

¼ cup maraschino cherry juice

⅓ cup roughly chopped maraschino cherries

DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the mascarpone, cherry juice, and confectioners' sugar to a mixing bowl. Using an electric hand mixer on low/medium speed, mix until well combined, and the mixture thickens, about 4-5 minutes.
2. Add in the maraschino cherries and fold in gently.

ASSEMBLY:

1. Cut each donut in half horizontally.
2. Spoon about 1 tbsp and half of the crème onto one donut slice. Top with other donut half. Repeat with remaining donuts.

EVOLUTION OF A PAGE

PAGE 33

Panel 1: Count Dracula and Chef Jeleu walk in the small downtown area. The glow from the shops and street lamps light up the town.

PASSERBY:
Count Dracula, can I have an autograph?

Panel 2:

OLD WOMAN (YELLING FROM ACROSS THE STREET):
I enjoyed your article in the latest *Bite and Early* magazine!

MAN WITH A BAG OF GROCERIES:
Nice to see a vampire back in town. How 'bout another one of your brunches soon?

Panel 3:

DRACULA (TO CHEF JELEU):
I love mingling with humans.

Panel 4: A kid with an old, 1800s film camera setup with flash powder approaches.

KID:
Can I get a selfie?

Panel 5: The flash powder explodes, Dracula coughs, and the kid runs away smiling.

CREATOR NOTES

I had a joke in mind that blended modern fandom with life in the 1800's. In the script, the joke played out in two panels. But when we saw the thumbs, we thought it would be funnier if it was told using three.

Also, if you look in the town and in newspapers, we've scattered clues of missing people you'll see at the end of the book when Dracula uncovers Constantine's secrets.

Keenan added the unscripted bunny ears gag.

THUMBNAILS

INKS

COLOR/LETTERS

EVOLUTION OF A PAGE

PAGE 127

Panel 1: Dracula sits on the chair. The guy next to him has steam coming off of his shoulders

CONSTANTINE:

A lot has changed in six months, hasn't it, Count Dracula?

Panel 2: Dracula places the boxes on the ground beside him.

DRACULA:

Seems like it. I thought everyone here enjoyed my brunch club.

Panel 3:

CONSTANTINE:

It *should* be a fun place for your fellow vampires. Not for humans, who have been known to turn on us.

DRACULA:

When I hosted, it was nothing but peaceful. You came back and killed the vibe--

Panel 4: Dracula points to the guy next to him with steam coming off his shoulder.

DRACULA:

Sorry, why is he smoking?

Panel 5:

CONSTANTINE:

If you had provided your jelly donuts, Dorian here would have made it inside before daybreak. Instead, he fainted outside because you're spending more time with humans than helping your own kind.

DORIAN:

I smell like a Christmas ham!

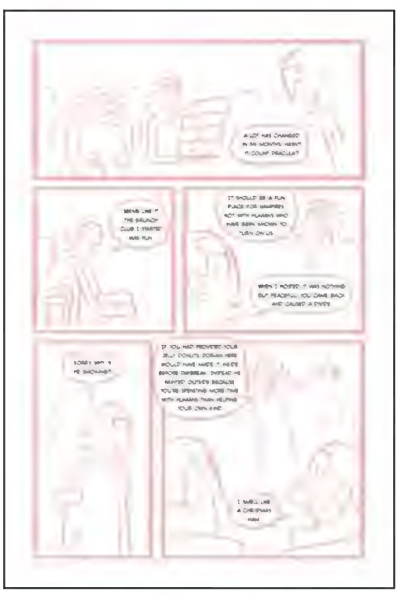
CREATOR NOTES

When Constantine is around, I never wanted to make it too scary/sinister. So I tried to infuse jokes wherever I could to keep the mood light.

The smoking joke was a funny thing to play out in the background while tense conversations were happening.

Once the thumbnails were drawn, we found we had a lot of older vampires, so we aged down Dorian (the one smoldering) for the final art.

FUN FACT: Keenan's wife and my daughter both appear as vampires in the book.



THUMBNAILS

INKS

COLOR/LETTERS

COVER GRAVEYARD

COVERS THAT—LIKE VAMPIRES—DIDN'T SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY

CREATOR NOTES

I (Brian) had envisioned a cover that was very graphic. The way books like Smile and Guts are designed always caught my attention in bookstores. Keenan dreamed up a ton of options. I thought it was hands-down going to be the donuts in the coffin design. We also loved the idea of fang marks in the donut.

But when the donut box concept came through, we all said the same thing: We've never seen a cover like this! It even convinced Grace (editor) that we didn't need to show the main character on the cover for it to work. ☺

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

CHARACTER DESIGN SKETCHES

EARLY CHARACTER DESIGN

FINAL CHARACTER DESIGN

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to my remarkable agent, Stacey Graham, for taking a chance on me and pushing me to tell this story as a graphic novel.

And thank you to Grace Scheipeter for believing that donuts and vampires could coexist in a story. You and the Oni Press team assembled a fantastic group of creative people to make this come to life.

It takes a village to write a book. Thanks to everyone who helped critique this and make it better: Theresa, Naomi, Kathy, Shauna, Marilyn, Paul, Mirka, AJ, Chuck, and Russ.

I'm indebted to my donut gurus who provided delicious recipes: Rebecca, Paige, and the crew at the fabulous Blackbird Doughnuts® and Dina Deleasa-Gonsar, the author, host, and creator of dishitgirl.com.

Finally, to my creative partner, Keenan. I'm so happy to have found someone so talented to collaborate with on this. My stick figures and I are insanely jealous of your drawing ability.

This is for kids like me who want to read scary books, but not actually be scared.

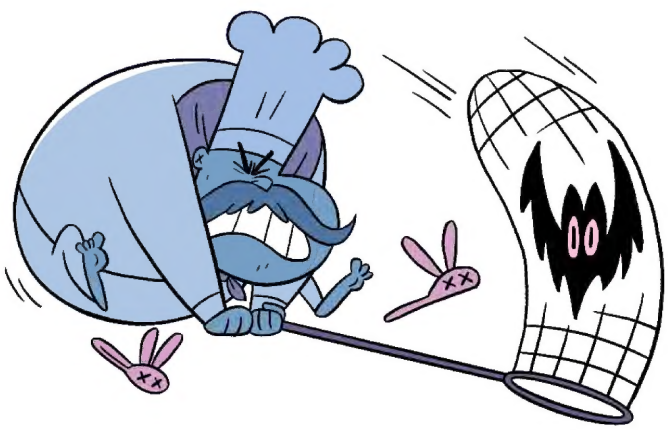
—BRIAN GONSAR

A special thank you to Brian (who bribed me with donuts). I couldn't ask for a better human to collaborate with.

Thank you to Amy, who let me eat all the donuts for "reference" purposes.

And thank you to Stacey, Grace, Shannon, Susie Lee, and everyone that worked on this book. Thank you for your guidance, expertise, and support.

—KEENAN GAYBBA



ABOUT THE CREATORS

BRIAN GONSAR

is an award-winning producer with a resume of feature films, music videos, art installations, and even a Super Bowl commercial. He is also a self-proclaimed donut aficionado who has traveled the world to find the best donut. *Dracula's Brunch Club* is Brian's debut graphic novel. When he's not writing and creating, Brian's most likely reliving his glory days on the soccer field. He is a proud #girldad and lives with his wife and daughter in New Jersey.

KEENAN GAYBBA

is an illustrator and animator from Cape Town, South Africa. He's created animated music videos for clients like All Time Low, Marshmello, Seth MacFarlane, Tones and I, Anthony Hamilton, and many more. *Dracula's Brunch Club* is his debut graphic novel. Keenan loves all things spooky, '90s cartoons, and his wife and cat.

DRACULA'S BRUNCH CLUB

Have you ever wondered how vampires got their taste for blood? In *Dracula s Brunch Club*, it all started with a crimson-red donut dripping and oozing with spooky secrets I mean, *jelly*. Dripping and oozing with non-spooky-tasting JELLY.

Count Dracula is not your average vampire. Well, sure, he s undead, hates garlic, and will burn up in sunlight but unlike other vampires, he has a knack for baking. And it s his brunch club s famous blood-orange-jelly donuts that give his fellow vampires the energy source they need to live forever. But when Transylvania experiences a mysterious jelly shortage, it allows his nemesis, Constantine, to swoop in and steal the brunch club and the vampires loyalty from Dracula. But it s not just jelly donuts at stake. When townsfolk start to go missing, Dracula suspects Constantine has far more sinister motives lurking that could threaten everything vampires and humans have worked for. With the help of his chef and human friend, Elena, Dracula must find a new oozy, red energy source before every vampire and human turns on him and he loses his coveted brunch club forever.

CONTAINS: Vampires, Donuts, Cruelty-Free Blood

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size | 1 Book

Amount per serving

224 Pages

	% Daily Value*
Donuts	250%
Vitamin D	0%
Garlic	0%
Brunch Clubs	1
Spirit Awards	1
Recipes	2
Creepy Castles	2
Vampires	a lot
Total Laughs	100%

*Daily Value (%DV) is a percentage that shows how many literary nutrients are in one serving of a food book compared to the average graphic novel. It's listed to help consumers make informed choices about their reading diet—and donut intake.

Includes a foreword from Kevin Jonas of the Jonas Brothers!

ONI PRESS